

**Icebreaker:** Why is it sometimes difficult to talk about faith in Jesus with those who might not know him?

**Lectio Divina (read; meditate; pray; contemplate):** Read Colossians 4:2-6 aloud and have your group share what stands out to each of them in the passage.

**Discuss:**

1. Share how one of your spiritual gifts might aid you in sharing your faith within your own gifts and abilities. (See [zpc.org](http://zpc.org) to take our online spiritual gifts test if you have not already done so.)
2. Why do you think Paul uses the word “alert” in Colossians 4:2?
3. Having your speech about Jesus be “seasoned with salt” (Colossians 4:6) means talking about him in a way that is not dull or boring. Have you experienced a conversation with someone where it felt like the “Jesus talk” seemed uninteresting? Why do you think that was the case?
4. What is one thing you might stop doing or start doing so that people might ask the question “Why do you live the way you do?”
5. What might be stopping you from sharing your faith? With the courage of the Holy Spirit and encouragement of this group, how can you overcome this obstacle?
6. Sharing your faith can be summed up as sharing your story and sharing God’s story. God’s story includes the grace of Jesus and the love of God the Father. In 1-2 minutes, share your story with your group. How did you come to faith in Jesus? What difference has Jesus made in your life?

**Prayer:**

Share your prayer requests with one another and also remember those from our church family:

- > Prayers for the team members and guests of the Women’s Great Banquet taking place in our building this weekend.

**Reminders for your group:**

- > Next week (beginning 3/26) is our last week for this round of Home Groups. The spring session will begin the week of April 16 and go through the week of June 11.
- > Join in ZPC’s Lenten reading of the gospels. Schedules available at the Welcome Center and at [zpc.org](http://zpc.org).

**Leader Notes:**

We like to talk. We talk about news, movies or TV shows we enjoy, the weather, recent vacations, or our families. Yet we can get sweaty palms when we need to talk about Jesus with people who don’t believe in Jesus or don’t go to church. If we promote Jesus, people might think we are excluding other religious views or being judgmental. Yet, sharing our faith is one of our highest callings as Jesus’ followers. Most of us came to faith because someone took time to reach out to us to share Jesus with us. We hope this discussion with your group can encourage you to find ways to share your faith with others.

**[Question 1]** If you have not already taken it, please take the spiritual gifts tests (at [zpc.org](http://zpc.org)) that Jerry mentioned in the sermon on March 12. After the test, click on the link that contains Spiritual Gift Descriptions which will help you see how you can use your gifts. All of our gifts can aid in sharing our faith. With your group, you might share how gifts like teaching, hospitality, service, or administration could help in sharing your faith with others.

**[Question 2]** The NRSV says “keeping alert” while the NIV says “being watchful” in prayer. If we are alert or watchful as we pray, we are seeing what is going on around us and can respond and make the most of every opportunity (Colossians 4:5). As we pray and live, we stay alert and are ready to speak and act with God’s help.

**[Question 3]** Remembering a conversation about Jesus or faith that was boring can be instructive. It can teach us what not to do next time. Our faith should be authentic and real. We can be real and use words and stories about what God is doing in our lives to season our conversations with salt so that others may see and taste that God is real in us.

**[Question 4]** Certain behaviors might be stumbling blocks to those around us – things that keep them from seeing Jesus in us. Some of these behaviors might not be sin, but if we set them aside, what we say may be heard more easily. Or if we can add things like kindness, hospitality, smiles, or joy to our actions – our words about church or faith or Jesus may be welcomed more.

**[Question 5]** This could be a good question to help overcome obstacles with good ideas. We can get stuck on things like: People will think I’m a Jesus freak; They’ll think I’m judging them for not going to church; I’m too nervous to share; I don’t know enough to talk about God. If you know some of God’s story of grace and you know your story about what Jesus has done in your life, then you’re not being judgmental or a Jesus freak, but you are sharing what you know and letting God take it from there to do what God wants.

**[Question 6]** God’s story is really that God loved us so much that he sent Jesus, his only Son, to give his life that we might live. You can consider John 3:16 and 1 John 4:9-11. Your story is what God has done in your life through Jesus’ sacrifice. To share Jesus with someone, you don’t need to tell your life story. You can answer the two questions in question 6 and now you have your story to share.