**LifeGroup Study**

**YOU’RE RICHER THAN YOU THINK**

**WORDS: YOUR SUPER POWER**

**Colossians 4:2-6**

**2022-06-05**

**Leader Notes**

**OVERVIEW:**

Welcome back to our series, You’re Richer Than You Think. This week we’re looking at Colossians 4:2-6. God has given everyone the power of communication, the power of speech, the opportunity to leverage our words in beautiful and strengthening ways. Paul emphasizes three ways in which we are rich in speech. We can use it in prayer. We can use it in proclaiming the Gospel. We can use it our daily interactions with people. The goal of this LifeGroup study is that you would leverage the power of your words for the good of others and the glory of God. This happens as we have a renewed awareness of the power and opportunity to use our words.

**ICEBREAKER:** My Talking Story

Think back to your home environment growing up. Was your home a place where everyone talked a lot? Were there one or two in your family who did most of the talking? Or was your home a place of few words? **Share your talking story with the group!**

**STUDY:**

1. In his teaching on Sunday, Ken talked about how we can leverage our words in beautiful and strengthening ways. **What was a highlight for you from Ken’s teaching?**

“Devote yourselves to prayer,

being watchful and thankful.”

Colossians 4:2

READ: Colossians 4:2-6

For today’s study we’ll focus in on how we are rich in speech when we *pray*. Whether you are new to prayer or a seasoned veteran, all of us can use the power of our words to bless God and others as we pray.

1. Read Colossians 4:2 again. “*Devote* yourselves to prayer …”. What does it look like to be devoted to prayer? **What helps you be devoted to prayer?**

 LEADER NOTE: Being devoted to prayer is being intentional about making prayer a significant part of our life. This can happen as we set aside time in our day to focus on prayer. Other ways to be intentional in our prayer life may include journaling our prayers, a prayer walk, or praying with others. Ultimately, our devotion to prayer is about our heart’s desire to grow our walk with God as we commune with Him through prayer. Encourage your group members to share life habits or disciplines that help them grow their devotion to prayer.

A.C.T.S. – A MODEL FOR PRAYER

A common challenge many have when it comes to prayer is what to say. A.C.T.S. is a simple model you can use to make your prayer time a powerful and meaningful experience. Let’s check out the A.C.T.S. model and talk about how to use our words to pray!

1. **A**DORATION: Praising God for who He is.

READ: Psalm 100 and Matthew 6:9

ADORATION is a powerful way to begin your prayer. This part of your prayer uses your words to praise and worship to God.

* **Why is expressing our adoration of God so important?**

LEADER NOTE: Our adoration of God is important because He is worthy of our worship and praise! (see Revelation 4:11). When we begin our prayer with adoration we put God in his rightful place in our heart. He is our King. He is large and in charge. Jesus began His prayer by focusing on God’s greatness and holiness. (Matthew 6:9) This is a wonderful place to start.

* **How does God make our words powerful as we praise Him?**

LEADER NOTE: Praising God makes our words powerful because of the truth they express. When we use our words to praise and bless God we remind ourselves and others that God is on the throne. He is large and in charge. Our words of praise our powerful because they put our needs and concerns in perspective. Rather than be overwhelmed by my needs and circumstances, my words of praise help me be overwhelmed by God’s greatness.

1. **C**ONFESSION: Confessing our sin to God and being renewed.

READ: 1 John 1:8-9 and Matthew 6:12

CONFESSION is a time to ask God to search our hearts, to identify any sin in our life and to confess that sin to Him. It is also a time for God to purify our hearts and make us new.

* **Why is confessing our sin so powerful?**

LEADER NOTE: Confessing our sin to God is powerful because it keeps us close to Him. The act of confessing our sin helps us keep a short account with God and reminds us to say “no” to sin and “yes” to Him. Asking for God’s forgiveness is important because Jesus modelled it in his prayer. (Matthew 6:12). Although we are fully forgiven because of what Jesus has done on the cross, asking God’s forgiveness for our sins is important because we don’t want to be deceived. When we confess we agree with God that sin is wrong and His way is right. (see 1 John 1:8-9)

* **What helps you remember to confess to God?**

LEADER NOTE: Encourage your group members about ways they can use their words to confess their sin to God. Here are some practical ideas – i) use the ACTS acrostic to make confession a regular part of your prayer life. ii). Meet with another LifeGroup member to pray together and encourage each other in this habit of confession. Iii). Attend Celebrate Recovery to be encouraged with practical ways to make confession a regular part of your walk with God.

1. **T**HANKSGIVING: Thanking God for what He’s done.

READ: Psalms 100:4, Philippians 4:6

THANKSGIVING is a time to remember the blessings God has poured into our lives. (see Romans 8:32). Our words are powerful when we use them to thank Him!

* **Why is thanksgiving a powerful part of our prayer?**

LEADER NOTE: Thanksgiving is powerful because it honours God as the One from whom all good things come. (see Romans 8:32) When we thank God we prepare our hearts to be with Him. The MESSAGE paraphrase of Psalm 100:4 reads, “Enter with the password: ‘Thank you!’”

* **What helps you use your words to thank God?**

LEADER NOTE: Encourage your group members to share ways they can use their words to thank God. Here are some practical ideas – i) write your thanks - use a notebook to write down things you are thankful for in your day, then speak them back to God. ii). Share your thanks - If you eat dinner with others, ask, “What are you thankful for today?” iii). Remember what God has done already – thank Him for giving you His Son, for saving you, for watching over you.

1. **S**upplication: Bringing your needs to Him.

READ: Philippians 4:6, Matthew 6:11

SUPPLICATION is a time to bring our needs to God. God invites us to talk with Him about anything we are worried or anxious about. He is ready to hear our words as we ask Him to provide our daily needs.

* **Why is bringing our needs to God so powerful?**

LEADER NOTE: On the surface, bringing our needs to God may look like a weakness, because we are admitting we can’t meet needs on our own. But in reality, bringing our needs to God makes our words powerful. When we bring our needs to God we acknowledge He is our Provider and we express our trust in Him.

* **What helps you remember to bring your needs to God?**

LEADER NOTE: In Philippians 4:6 we are reminded that rather than being anxious or worried, we can bring our needs to God. Encourage your group members to use their worry or anxiety as a reminder to ask God for help. Your LifeGroup is a place where you can share needs with one another and bring those needs before God as you lift one another up in prayer.

**EXPERIENCE GOD**

PRAY with one another using the ACTS model. Note how God uses your words to be powerful as you experience Him in prayer.

**COLOSSIANS DEVOS:**

Each week of this series we have 5 devotionals for you to read on your own.

Read the devos this week and notice how this habit enriches your walk with Jesus!

<https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/richer-than-you-think/>

**PRAY**

This week, let’s pray for our Global Partner, Impact Ecuador. <https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/carmenbajo/>

* Pastors Fabian and Grace will be with us on Sunday June 12! Pray for their time in Canada to be a time of reconnecting and building new relationships, as well as a time of rest and enjoying their family here!
* Pray for the new vision for the Ministry Centre in Carmen Bajo that is already being realized, for funding, staff and volunteers who can carry the outreach into Carmen Bajo to a new level of effectiveness!