



Opening Prayer

God, thanks for another week to be together. We bring you our whole lives and lay them before you today. As a community of faith, we offer you our gratitude, our love, our hurts, our fears, and our pain. We invite you to use all of it, even the messy parts, to encourage us and bless others. Amen.

Icebreaker

Q1: What is a bucket list item for you? A vacation you want, an item you want to own, an experience you want to have, etc.

Today, we're going to talk about letting God into every area of our lives. In Colossians, Paul describes it as a putting off old clothes and putting on new ones.

Q2: What would you say best describes the state of your spiritual wardrobe? Here are some options to think about:

- » **I'M GOLDEN:** I'm wearing the right spiritual clothes in the right season.
- » **NEW:** I have lots of new spiritual stuff. The problem is a lot of it never gets worn.
- » **OLD:** Everything is tired and worn out and in need of a spiritual upgrade.
- » **50/50:** Some of my spiritual clothing is great. Some needs an upgrade but I'm having trouble parting with it.
- » **THRIFT STORE:** I feel like all my spiritual clothing was, at some point, someone else's.

PLAY WEEK 4 VIDEO

Talk it Over

Read Colossians 3:5-7 (NLT)

Leader Instructions: Invite others in the group to read the Bible verses during your weekly study using their participant's guide or Bible.

Q3: In your spiritual journey, what are some ways of thinking, behavior patterns, or attitudes that you've intentionally left behind or even put to death as a follower of Jesus?

Q4: Reflect on the ways of thinking, behavior patterns, or attitudes that God is currently inviting you to let go. If you're comfortable, share what you're struggling to leave behind with your group.

James mentioned a famous book called "My Heart, Christ's Home" and compared our lives to an ice cube tray.

Q5: What are some of the small barriers in our lives that block God's influence from rippling freely in our stories? What have you discovered that can help us to remove those barriers?

(continued on next page)



LEADER GUIDE

WEEK FOUR

OPEN THE FLOODGATES LETTING GOD FLOW WHERE HE NEVER HAS BEFORE



Read Colossians 3:12-14 (NLT)

Leader Instructions: Invite others in the group to read the Bible verses during your weekly study using their participant's guide or Bible.

Q6: Review the list of things Paul is calling Christ-followers to clothe themselves in. Which one comes most naturally for you and why?

Q7: Which one is the most difficult for you and why?

Q8: Our verse says the most important thing is to “clothe yourselves with love.” What would this look like in your day-to-day life?

Has anyone memorized our theme verse (Colossians 1:6 NLT)? Will you share the verse with us now?

Q9: Without sharing any specific numbers or amounts, have you sensed God speaking to you regarding your Cannonball commitment? Are you excited, challenged, or fearful about what you think God is saying to you?

Q10: If you have not already shared it, what areas of your life can we pray for so that you can more effectively partner with God and be of greater influence for his kingdom this week?

Closing Prayer

Leader Instructions: Feel free to lead this week's closing prayer using the prompt below or praying your own prayer for the group. You can also ask your group if someone would like to share a quick, simple closing prayer.

God, help us hold nothing back from you. As best we know how, we give you full access to our heart, mind, body, soul, talents and resources. We invite you to do great things in and through us. Make us more like you and take off the things that are not from you. Thank you for the ways you're going to use us this week. We love you. Amen.

Closing reminders for our group

- » Let's each commit now to attending the final week of Ripple Effect groups and sermon series.
- » Let's each commit to attending Worship Night as a group.
- » Let's each commit to listen to God's call as we pray for our “next right step.”
- » Let's continue to read through Colossians every week.
- » Let's memorize the theme verse for this series (Colossians 1:6).



PARTICIPANT GUIDE

WEEK FOUR

OPEN THE FLOODGATES

LETTING GOD FLOW WHERE HE NEVER HAS BEFORE



Colossians 3:5-7 (NLT)

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world.

The reason I hold onto earthly patterns and habits in me is:

One thing that I want to entrust to Jesus and leave behind as a Christ-follower is:

Colossians 3:12-14 (NLT)

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

The trait I most long to "put on" as daily clothing from God is the character trait of...

For me, putting on love daily means that I need to...

Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

The area of my life where I want God to help me grow this week is...
