

Small Group Material - Fruitfulness on the Frontline

Messenger of the Gospel - Col 4.2-6

Welcome (10 mins) How did you come to faith in Jesus? Was there someone who particularly helped you?

Worship (10 mins)

In a moment of quiet, think about what some of the things are that you are most grateful to God for in saving you?

Sing 'You alone can rescue',

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UracNSSIfTo>

Praise and thank God together.

Word (50 mins)

PLAY FILM to end - approx. 9 mins

Questions to Discuss after the Film (7 mins) *Note to leader - keep this part moving!*

Mark began by making three key points:

- 1) God wants people saved
 - 2) It is God who saves people, not us
 - 3) We have some role in this, however small
- How much does your own thinking and practice reflect these three statements?
 - Do they change your view of evangelism at all?
 - What do you find encouraging about the story of Anita and Renata? And what do you find challenging?

Read Colossians 4.2-6 (20 mins)

1. Paul asks for prayer that he and the other apostles would be able to proclaim 'the mystery of Christ'. In advancing the gospel, what role is played by...a) Prayer? b) Watchfulness? c) Thankfulness? d) Open doors? e) Closed doors or chains?

f) Wise actions? g) Opportunism? h) Graceful talk? i) Salty talk?

2. Paul expects the Colossians to be able to hold their own on their market stalls, at the meal tables, in the public baths and in the city squares. Is it possible to 'know how to answer everyone' v6? What do you find difficult when you are called to 'answer'? Is there some help you need? How could you get it?

Exercise (4 mins individual reflection + 10 mins sharing)

Individually, pray: 'Who on my frontline might God be prompting me to reach out to?'

Then ponder:

- What is important to this person? What do you think they believe about God?
- What specific things could you do to bless this person practically or to aid their spiritual development?
- What might you do: in the next two weeks? In the coming months?

Then share this with one other person.

Witness - as a group (10 mins)

Praying for our frontline friends to come to know Jesus is something we need to commit to doing over the long-term. It will be easier to persevere in prayer if we get into the pattern of doing it together as a group as well as in our own personal prayers. Laurence Singlehurst uses the idea of being a 'Secret Pastor' to our friends.

Take a large piece of paper and write the names of one or two friends that you want to commit to pray for.

Then pray together. You might like to pray specifically for the person your discussion partner told you about earlier.