

w/b 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015(Funday) THEME: LOOKING OUTWARDS? - LIFE APPLICATION (DWP)

## INTRODUCTION

What a great fun day we had on Sunday. Doug was superb. The games were fun and the weather held.

As one famous archbishop said, “the church is the only society that exists for the benefit of its non-members”. The question that I want to explore is that is this statement true of our church or are we in danger of becoming insular and happy with the status quo?

The passage for our study is short but packed full of excellent advice.

PASSAGE: Colossians 4: 2-6

*<sup>2</sup>Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. <sup>3</sup>And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup>Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. <sup>5</sup>Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup>Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

## LAUNCH

- When was the last time you talked to a complete stranger? What did you talk about? What was challenging, exciting or worrying about your conversation?

## DISCOVERY

- What key Christian themes or subject areas does Paul tackle in this passage?

## UNDERSTANDING

- What door for the message of the gospel do you have a heart to see opened?
- Paul was literally in chains in Rome as a result of his decision to advance the gospel. What price can we end up paying for sharing our faith?
- What mystery do you think Paul had in mind as he talked about Christ?
- In what ways can we be in danger of sharing the gospel unclearly?
- In what ways might we need to be wise in interacting with our yet-to-believe friends?
- Paul considered grace and salt to be key features of our conversation. What does a grace filled conversation look like? What granules of salt may need to be introduced at some point?
- What opportunities are out there that you need to make the most of this summer?

## APPLICATION

- Having considered potential doors that you want to see open to advance the gospel, spend some time praying for these. Also pray for new opportunities to share your faith.
- Pray that you will be full of the Holy Spirit and be able to combine grace and saltiness in your conversations