



SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

GOD, OPEN A DOOR FOR THE WORD NEXT DOOR
COLOSSIANS 4:2-6
NOVEMBER 2, 2014

TAKEAWAYS

Write out your one-sentence takeaways. Consider writing these on a notecard and putting it on your mirror, desk, or car dashboard.

What to remember:

What to put off/put on:

What to share with someone:

NEXT STEPS

Here are some next steps to walk in this truth this week. Don't feel constrained to these but feel free to use them.

- Read through the College Park Next Door pamphlet and pray over the details and opportunities in it.
- Take one step this week in building the relationship with someone on your post-it note (grab coffee, invite them to your house, grab dinner, watch the Colts, invite to church, etc.).
- Start a prayer journal where you record both your requests and your praises, including how God answered your prayers.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

For those wanting to study some of the key ideas in more detail here are some cross-references and resources.

- **Open door:** Acts 14:27; 1 Cor. 16:8-9; 2 Cor. 2:12; Rev. 3:8.
- **Prayer and evangelism:** Matt. 9:37-38; Acts 4:29; 26:18; Rom. 10:1; 2 Thess. 3:1.
- **Thanksgiving to God tied to telling about it:** Ps 35:18; 100:4; 109:30; Lk. 8:39; Jn. 4:39.
- **Thanksgiving:** Col. 2:7; 3:15, 17; 4:2; cf. Eph. 1:16; 5:20; 2 Thess. 2:13-14.
- For **resources on evangelism**, see: yourchurch.com/evangelism
- **Read** *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon.

APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION

These questions focus on the sermon text and message. We've highlighted key ones but use however many your group needs.

1. Paul tells us to be steadfast, watchful, and thankful in our prayers. Talk through each of those words and then discuss practical ways to build them into your prayer life.

2. We often pray for things but neglect watching for how God might answer or thanking him when he does answer. How might you grow in being watchful for God at work and then celebrating it?

3. What are some ways your small group can grow in how you pray for one another? Include how you can pray more for open doors as well as how more of the group's prayer requests can move from physical needs alone to including spiritual needs.

4. What are some of the reasons we don't share the gospel? What are barriers that keep us from building relationships with unbelievers?

5. What are ways or opportunities your small group might engage with lost people as a group? Consider things like a holiday party, a cookout, everyone inviting a friend to watch the Colts game, getting involved together in a ministry like FISH, etc.

6. Who is someone in your life right now you're praying will come to know Christ? Spend some time as a group sharing about who you're praying for and then pray together.

7. Why is it so important that our lives (walk) and how we speech (talk) reflect Christ to unbelievers? Do your walk and your talk shine a light that might open doors? Why or why not? Share any examples you might have.

8. How can you be praying about how you might participate in the Next Door Mission? What specific things can you pray about and what might it look like to be more involved in the mission, wherever you live?

HOW TO PRAY

Pray over the praises and requests of those around you but here are some additional ways to pray into our passage this week.

- Thank God for the ways you've tasted His grace and kindness.
- Pray for specific lost people in your life.
- Pray for open doors in your neighborhood, workplace, and family to build relationships and share the gospel.
- Ask God to help you be a light through by walking in holiness and having speech full of grace and truth.