

“Five Things I Pray for In 2011”
Series: “*Non-Series*” New Year’s Weekend
(Part 1 of 1)

Open: What words would you use to summarize 2010?

Explore: Read Colossians 1:3-14.

Prayer is one of the most amazing gifts we can give to others. The Apostle Paul was a great encourager and his letter to the Colossians is a great example of the grace of thanksgiving through prayer.

1. Whom does Paul thank first, when praying for the believers in Colossae (vs. 3-4)? Why did Paul say he was so thankful for these Christians?
2. What did Paul say the gospel message was doing all over the world (vs. 5-8)?
3. List every prayer request Paul made to God on behalf of the Colossians (vs. 9-12). From the list, how would you like someone to pray for you?
4. How does God enable believers to share the good news with others (vs. 13-14)?

Reflect: Review key points from the lesson before answering the questions.

1. You may be ready to close the door on 2010 however taking time to reflect is good. Share one highlight (reason to be thankful) from 2010 with the group.
2. What was your greatest challenge in 2010? How were you able to see God using that event to grow your faith?
3. A new year gives us the chance to dream big and readjust our priorities. What vision (for your family, your church, or your work) is God putting in your heart for 2011?
4. Prayer is a powerful tool in the life of the believer. Share one BIG prayer request you have for 2011? Write these requests in a journal and pray over them all year long.
5. Momentum can be difficult to maintain. What obstacles might your group need to address in 2011 to keep moving forward?

Apply: Live it.

As a CARE Group: Take time to set some goals as a group. Which group practice (connect in relationships, apply the Bible, reach out to the disconnected, encourage those in need) would you like to emphasize in 2011. Make it a group priority and decide on your next step to make it happen.

As an individual: What is one thing you would like to be different in your life this next year? Write down your goal and make it a matter of daily prayer. Next think about your first step to make it happen?

Listening Guide Notes

Three things I am thankful for in 2010...

1. Faithful people.

^[17] “I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. ^[18] For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. ^[19] Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. ^[20] The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”

–**Romans 16:17-20 (NIV)**

2. A faithful Heavenly Father.

3. A great year at New Hope.

5 things I’m praying for in 2011...

1. That all of us would grow spiritually.

2. That more and more people would catch the vision.

^[4] “[God] wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ^[5] For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” –**1 Timothy 2:4-5 (NIV)**

3. That we will pray big in 2011.

“When all the jars were full, she said to her son, ‘Bring me another one.’ But he replied, ‘There is not a jar left.’ Then the oil stopped flowing.” –**2 Kings 4:6 (NIV)**

4. That our families would be strengthened.

5. That we keep the momentum.