

KEEPING OUR BALANCE

Discipleship

INTRODUCTION

AIM:

To explore what it means to be a whole-life follower of Jesus

OPENER: What do you think makes someone a disciple?

We know that the amazing gift of grace means that we cannot do anything to earn our way into God's kingdom. We reach out to him in belief as we recognise who Jesus is and what he has done for us. But we also know that, whilst God loves and accepts us as we are, he also loves us too much to leave us as we are.

Discipleship is the journey towards maturity in our faith, and learning how to live in a way that shows God to people in our lives.

PRAY

Pray as you start that through today's reading, we will be reminded of what God has done for us and what God wants for us.

As we think about discipleship today, this prayer shows what Paul was praying for the early church as it started out on the discipleship pathway.

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BIBLE STUDY



Read: Colossians 1 : 9 – 14

Looking through this passage, there are four places where Paul and Timothy's prayer expresses what they want for the Colossian believers. These represent four places where they might grow in their faith. We are going to consider these now as we think about our own discipleship journey.

(v.9) – to be filled with the knowledge of God's will.

- What do you think it means to be 'filled with the knowledge of God's will'? How can we see this move from words to reality?
- What is the goal of this part of the prayer (v.10)?

(v.10) – living a life worthy of the Lord.

- What do you think 'living a life worthy of the Lord' looks like?
- What are the ways in which we can please God, according to this verse?
- Where do you struggle to bring this verse off the page and into your life?

(v.11) – being strengthened with all power

- What is this power that can strengthen us? What is its purpose?
- Do you feel as if you can identify with being strengthened with God's power? How / when?

(v.12) – joyfully giving thanks

- What does verse 12 suggest that our thanks is linked to?
- What is our inheritance? Why is it so easy to lose sight of it, and what can we do about that?

How do these four prayer requests link together? Do you think they are circular (one flows into another and so one in a circle), or steps on a ladder (one leading on from another)?

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Look back again at today's Bible reading and at the four prayer requests that Paul has for believers that we have already looked at.

Think about this definition of discipleship: **'to know Jesus and to make him known'**. What do you notice in these verses about:

- God's role as we seek to know Jesus in a deeper way
- Our role as we seek to show Jesus in a way which impacts the whole of our life

How might these verses encourage you as you seek to grow in maturity, and to show him to others by marching to a different beat?

GOING DEEPER



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PRAY

What strikes you most about how Paul prays, and what he prays?

Who is someone you can pray one or more of these points for today, and then encourage them by letting them know what you're praying for them?

