Colossians

Lesson 4: Our Connection to Each Other

**Lessons in this series:** [1](http://www.teensundayschool.com/76/lesson/christs-connection-to-god...-hes-him.php) [2](http://www.teensundayschool.com/78/lesson/our-connection-to-christ.php) [3](http://www.teensundayschool.com/92/lesson/our-connection-to-the-world.php) **4**

LESSON OBJECTIVES
Goals

1. For students to become familiar with Colossians 4
2. For students to become more convinced that they need one another
3. For students to build up a relationship that they’ve neglected in the past

Topics

Body of Christ, Encouragement, Family, Relationships, Unity

Scripture Memorization

Colossians 3:23

OPENING PRAYER (5 to 10 minutes)

GROUP BUILDING (5 minutes)

*(This group building is more discussion-based than activity-based. Try to get everyone to share.)*1. Who are some people you find really hard to get along with?
2. What makes people hard to tolerate? What really gets on your nerves?
3. Are the people you have a hard time getting along with Christians or not?

GETTING STARTED (10 minutes)

In the last chunk of Colossians we’re going to study how we are supposed to connect to one another. Remember where we’re coming from here:
 —Christ is God (chapter 1)
 —Christ has connected Himself to us (chapter 2)
 —We should be disconnected from the world (chapter 3)

It seems like, as we are connected to God, we become less connected to the world. But we are relational creatures. We need one another. I think that is one of the reasons why Paul addresses the believers in Colossae with one further instruction: how they should connect with one another.

That’s the essence of what we’ll talk about today.

DIGGING IN (30 minutes)

Let’s first read today's passage. We’ll break it into two parts. First, someone read Colossians 3:18-4:6

Alright, now someone else read Colossians 4:7-4:18

What we see here are two main parts. In the first, Paul instructs various groups of people on how to treat one another. In the second part, Paul talks about some of the people that he thinks of dearly. Let’s frame our discussion on those two sections.

**Part One: Be Good to One Another**

Let’s examine Colossians 3:18-4:6 There's place in your workbook to write down what you observe.

**Discussion Questions**
1. Which groups of people does Paul address? *(Wives, Husbands, Children, Fathers, Slaves, and Masters)*2. What does Paul say wives should do? What does that mean? *(Submit to their husbands)*
3. What does Paul say to husbands? What does that mean? *(That they should love their wifes and not be harsh to them)*4. What does Paul say to children? What does that mean? *(Children should obey their parents in everything)*5. What does Paul say to fathers? What does that mean? *(Fathers should not embitter their children)*6. What does Paul say to slaves? What does that mean?*(Slaves should obey their earthly masters as if they are working for the Lord)*7. What does Paul say to masters? What does that mean? *(Provide for their slaves what is right and fair)*
*(The questions above are simply meant to pound into their heads that Paul talks to everyone. He addresses everyone and says, “love one another.”)*8. Why do you think we need to treat each other in these ways? (*Allow for discussion)*

I believe this stuff comes after what we’ve talked about in past weeks because, as Paul teaches the Colossians (and us), the conclusion that the listener comes to is, “Wow. I’m supposed to be different from the world. God says so. But if I do that, the world won’t accept me. I’ll be an outcast of sorts. How can I make it? How can I stand alone against such a world.”

The truth is, we aren’t alone! We have other Christians to stand beside. There’s no doubt, we’re supposed to be there for each other, and there’s no doubt, we are supposed to treat one another with love and kindness. But there’s more.

**Discussion Questions**
1. What does verse 4:2-6 say about how we should treat one another. What instructions are listed? *(Devote ourselves to prayer, while being watchful and thankful)*2. Do you guys feel alone as a Christian or do you feel like you have support for your faith? What makes you feel that way? *(Allow for discussion)*

All but one of those instructions is for other Christians.

3. Which instruction is given on how to behave toward “outsiders”? *(Act wisely, make the most of every opportunity)*4. Why is that instruction given? *(So that we will be ready to share the Gospel with those who do not know Christ)*

Bottom line: we are supposed to love each other, be kind, be thoughtful, and pray for one another. This reflects back on Colossians 3:17, when Paul says to do everything in the name of Jesus.

**Part Two: Paul’s List**
Now let’s look more closely at Colossians 4:7-4:18. These are the types of passages often overlooked, but this particular one is packed with good stuff.

(Have someone read the passage again. Warn them of the tough names to pronounce!)

Okay, in your workbooks there’s a place for this. Let’s review the passage again.

**Discussion Questions**
1. Who are some of the people Paul names, and what have they done for him? *(Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark, Justus, Epaphras, Luke, Demas, and Nympha. They were fellow servants in the Lord)*

*(Try to form a complete list, even if you can’t pronounce them. What you call them isn’t important. The point we’re getting at is how many people it took for Paul to “make it.”)*

Good job! It is cool to see how many people Paul lists as his friends, co-workers, and supporters.

2. Do you know of people in your own life that you could put on a list like this? *(Allow for discussion)*

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| Workbook Activity (5 minutes)**Have the students turn to the workbook activity and write out their responses.**Let’s do just that. I want you to try and think of 5 people, other Christians, who have helped you along. In your workbooks, list them and what they’ve done for you. Take a minute or two to do that, and then we’ll talk about it.*(Give them 3-4 minutes to think of 5 people. It could be you end up being one, or someone in your group. These are the kinds of moments we’re trying to create.)*Okay, let’s share. Who’s on your list and why?(Just allow some sharing time. This could end up being really neat to hear and experience together.)I want you all to understand one thing: without other Christians, it would be hard to make it. Paul seems to make that very point in this passage, and I can attest from my own life it’s true (feel free to share personally here if you want). |

MAKING IT REAL (10 minutes)

Each of you listed some names on your handouts before. Now what I want you to do is (have some paper and pens available) write a note to those people. This could take a few minutes, but I want you to write thoughtfully to the people who have influenced your faith, people on your list. When you’re all done, we’re going to pray for these people. For now, take some time and thank them for what they’ve done.

What I want all of you to do is pray a prayer of thanks for the people that have influenced you in your life thus far. I’d love for you to do that out loud as we close. Also, make a point to thank them in person by giving them the note you’ve just written.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)