

**Wherever He Leads  
Colossians 4:2-6**

**Prepare to Teach:**

Places are physical in nature, or are they? Places can be mental, psychological, emotional, or even circumstantial. Youth find themselves in many different “places” and sometimes, several at the same time. Glory to God! He knows the very place where every youth under your guidance is. He has not lost track of one of them.

Pray that your conversation with youth will be full of grace and seasoned with salt. Ask God for wisdom to answer everyone.

Secure information provided that describe the 2009 Margaret Lackey Allocations at [www.mbc.org/mission\\_strategy/missions.aspx](http://www.mbc.org/mission_strategy/missions.aspx).

Organize a group of students or put your lead team to work to produce a mock game show or skit that centers around places. A question-answer format can be created using places in your community, our state, or even the world. One of the places included might be jail— a great lead into the study of Scripture.

Consider the fundraiser described below. Again, put students to work to collect that which is needed. Secure a date and time for presentation of the plan to the church body.

**Introduction:**

Utilize a game show format to focus the attention of students on places.

**Focus on Scripture:**

Ask several students to read the Scripture aloud.

**Discussion and Challenge:**

Students may find interesting the specific reason why Paul found himself in chains. Likely, many will quickly conclude that it was because of his ministry for Christ. Guide students to Acts 22:21-22 and help them understand that the Jews were insulted, and Paul was arrested when he spoke of the Gentiles as people his ministry valued. Students can understand the spiritual estrangement Jews established between themselves and others. Ask students to compare Paul’s ministry to Gentiles in a contemporary sense by discussing situations- spiritual and otherwise- in which people find themselves. Talk about possible responses Christians might be tempted to make which create barriers between them and people whose lives (circumstances, needs, past experiences, etc.) differ from their own. Conclude that we must respond with the same kind of compassion that Paul showed. Tell students that Mississippi Baptists have organized themselves to meet such challenges. Use the materials provided at [www.mbc.org/mission\\_strategy/missions.aspx](http://www.mbc.org/mission_strategy/missions.aspx) to name and explore Compassion Ministries such as Disaster Relief, Criminal Justice Ministries, Pastoral Benevolence, Literacy, and Women’s/Men’s Job Corps.

Students will note that though imprisoned, Paul's prayer request was not about himself and his desires or needs. Paul's request is about the Gospel. How could Paul ignore his own circumstances? He was certain that God could and would supply all his needs (Philippians 4:19). It is characteristic of Paul to remain secure in his position in Christ, no matter what his physical circumstance might be (Philippians 4:11-13. Do not miss the opportunity to remind students that Paul also wrote the letter to the Philippians from prison). A deep satisfaction regarding his personal security enabled Paul to intentionally set his mind on others and to remain steadfast in his understanding of God's concern for all people. In fact, Paul more than most people we know understood his life was to be about making the Gospel known. His desire was for opportunities to proclaim the greatest mystery of all- God's love and redemptive plan for sinners demonstrated through Jesus Christ. Tell students that Mississippi Baptists are organized to be intentional in the same way. Use the materials provided ([www.mbc.org/mission\\_strategy/missions.aspx](http://www.mbc.org/mission_strategy/missions.aspx)) to introduce Great Commissionaries such as Voluntary Missionary Assistance, Cross Cultural Outreach and College and University Outreach.

Remind students that Colossians is a portion of Scripture originally written as a letter. Paul's letters are written to address issues particular to the recipients, but apply to us today as God's Word is living and active (Hebrews 4:12). Make a contemporary application of the Scripture by explaining that Colossae was located along a trade route and would have been visited by many people holding to different philosophies and spiritual teachings, including great heresy. In Colossians 4:6, Paul's reminds us that when we rub shoulders with others, we leave an impression. Lifestyle evangelism is not new, but has always been a means by which relationships are used to advance the Gospel. What we say (and don't say) and what we do (and don't do) testifies to our core beliefs. We all do well to exercise Paul's words of advice regarding our speech and activities which are observed and evaluated by those who are not yet in Christ. Each of us individually has such opportunities, but Mississippi Baptists are organized to assist through Community Focused Ministries which support Church Planting and Associational Mission Projects. Camp Ministries, such as Garaywa and Central Hills, offer both Mississippi Baptists and those not yet in Christ opportunities to engage in activities that center around teaching Christ and the Gospel.

Close by summarizing the cooperative aspect among Mississippi Baptists in sharing Christ in our state. Introduce a fundraising project that will raise an offering for the Margaret Lackey fund. Youth know well that what we do is quite often dictated by the funds with which we have available. Host an auction (silent or live) by which services ranging from meals out to car maintenance or manicures are available for purchase. The key will be that each product comes with it a Gospel track or note to be used with a gratuity that shares the Gospel. Therefore, wherever one goes in the community, there is an opportunity to share Christ. A church-wide event hosting auction can be enjoyed by all ages and will draw attention to mission opportunities in your community as well as in our state.

**Pray:** Declare that wherever we go, our position in Christ is secure. Thank God for His redemptive plan and pray that many Mississippians will come to know Jesus Christ.