

# Growth Teams

Week Beginning  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## Going deeper

In Colossians 1, Paul talks about a life of love that is pleasing to God springing from 'the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you.' Paul is encouraging the Colossians that the word about Christ makes a powerful difference. This passage from Isaiah also talks of the power of God's word.

## Read Isaiah 55:1-13

5. Are verses 1-3 about food and drink or God's word? Why is hearing God's word so good?
6. Isaiah was written hundreds of years after David and before Jesus. Who are verses 4-5 about? What do we learn about them?
7. Why is the message of verses 6-7 good news? How does it compare to Colossians 1:12-14?
8. What do verses 8-11 teach us about God's word? How do they make us more enthusiastic to know it and share it?
9. What impression do the final verses (12-13) leave you with? Do we think of this as the effect of the gospel on people's lives? If not why not?

***Now turn over and do 'Applying it to our lives'.***

St Lukes



**Growing in Christ  
to glorify God  
and enjoy Him forever.**

## Can the church really grow?

Colossians 1:1-14 (page 1182)

*Space to take notes on the talk*

❖ \_\_\_\_\_ for growth

❖ \_\_\_\_\_ for growth

❖ We grow through

\_\_\_\_\_

❖ We grow to \_\_\_\_\_

## Starter question

- What has been your most successful attempt to grow something?

## Responding to the talk

1. What was the most important thing you learnt from this week's talk?
2. Read Colossians 1:1-2
  - a. Who writes this letter and who is it written to?
  - b. How does Paul describe himself? Why does this give the letter authority?
  - c. How does Paul describe the Colossians? How is he encouraging them?
3. Read Colossians 1:3-7
  - a. What is it about the Colossians that Paul gives thanks for?
  - b. How does Paul say they ended up with these qualities?
  - c. How might you use Paul's prayer of thanks as a model?
4. Read Colossians 1:8-14
  - a. What does Paul pray God will do for the Colossians (vs. 9)?
  - b. What results does Paul expect this will bring about?
  - c. How might you use Paul's prayer for the Colossians as a model to pray for other Christians?

*If there is time, you may like to do the 'Going deeper' questions over the page. Otherwise please just jump to questions 10 and 11.*

## Applying it to our lives

10. How might our priorities change if we were serious about 'being filled with the knowledge of God's will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding'? (vs. 9)
11. Paul reminds the Colossians of the worldwide effects of the gospel (vs. 6) thanks to people like Epaphras (vs. 7). How does learning about the church's mission around the world encourage us? How can we find out more?