



Week 2: Colossians - This is the Gospel

FACILITATOR'S NOTE:

- ✓ Start your group discussion with the “Check-in” question to help your members reflect back on their week and follow up on last week’s application challenge.
- ✓ Review the “Big Idea” to help you gain clarity around the heart of this week’s message and focus your group’s discussion towards a clear direction.
- ✓ Read this week’s scripture passages together and guide your group through the “Discuss” questions to initiate meaningful dialogue around key concepts or insights from this week’s message.
- ✓ Move your group discussion to a deeper level by leading them through questions in “Apply”. Use discernment to customize these application questions to meet the needs & dynamics of your group.
NOTE: You do not have to cover all the questions provided in “Apply”.
- ✓ Connect with God together as a group through this week’s “prayer practice”, which can be in the form of a prayer exercise or some guidance on what to pray for in relation to the message or application.

CHECK-IN	Last week we were challenged with this question, “Do I want to know God’s will so I can consider it or do I want to know God’s will so I can do it?” How have you processed this question in your own life and what conclusion have you come to?
BIG IDEA	The Gospel means the announcement of God’s story centered around Jesus. In a world of kings, lords, rulers, and powers of darkness, the announcement that Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords gives us hope. When God becomes King, he provides us with forgiveness, a family and a future. He forgives our sin so we can live as renewed humans. He places us in his family as children of God. Finally, He gives us hope of the resurrection because he defeated death. The grave is not the end of our existence.

DISCUSS

Read Colossians 1:15-29 together.

We will be adopting some questions from a *How to Study the Bible* online resource to help us to interpret the passage. Supplementary questions follow each of the “big questions” in order to connect them to the sermon message. The beauty of using a set of “big questions” like these is that we can apply them to any Scripture passage. Choose at least one question from each question type.

1. **What does this teach me about God?** The people in Jesus’ day were expecting the Messiah to be a military leader who would set them free and set up a new kingdom. But how was Jesus’ vision of the coming kingdom and his role quite different than what most of the people were expecting? (Colossians 1:13-18)
2. **What does this reveal about my sin (or the human condition)?** Colossians 21-22 describes how we were alienated from God and enemies because of our evil behaviour. What did Jesus do to resolve humanity’s condition? Through his resolution, what does it mean for us to live genuinely human?
3. **How does this point to Christ’s redemption?** What are some of the historical reasons that Jesus died on the cross? What are some of the theological reasons Jesus had to suffer a shameful death on the cross? (Colossians 1:20-22)
4. **What is the one truth that I need to apply to my life this week?** Pastor Samuel shared three key components of the good news: forgiveness, family and a future. How do these three components help you live as a healthy Christ follower and impact the world around you?

APPLY

How do we respond to God’s teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?

1. For followers of the Christ, death is not the end of the story but the real beginning. How can living with confidence that your story will end in the new creation bring you hope, confidence, or strength today? When was a time your confidence in God’s sovereignty and Christ’s supremacy over your life story helped you to make it through a hard time?
2. In the ancient world, faith and religion permeated every aspect of a person’s public and private activities. With this in mind, how would a person’s life have radically changed if he or she decided to follow Jesus as their Saviour? Why do you think this was seen as such a threat to the culture of the ancient world? How is living as a Jesus follower today seem radical to our culture?
3. What was the main message of the church during the first century? What was the primary message you heard in the church where you grew up? (If you grew up in church) What message do you think the church should be

	<p>communicating to the world today?</p> <p>4. How does a true understanding of the gospel and the mission of the church lead to compassionately caring for those in need? How can our church continue to help the forgotten and marginalized? How can you be a greater part of this ministry?</p>
PRAYER PRACTICE	Take time for each member in the group to mention one person that needs to hear the good news of Jesus and then pray for them that one day they will experience the saving faith of Jesus.