



Week 3: Colossians - Living in Christ

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	Did you have an opportunity to share the "good news" to someone this last week? What motivated you or hindered you from sharing your faith?
BIG IDEA	Our relationship and life with God is not earned or merited, but rather, freely given. Unfortunately, so many of us spend much of our life trying to earn God's favour. What a tragic waste of time because God has already freely given us the gift of Jesus Christ, the gift of life, with no strings attached. The question is whether we will actually take hold of this gift and receive it and respond to his call to "walk in Him".
DISCUSS	<p>Read Colossians 2:6-7 together.</p> <p>We will be adopting some questions from a <i>How to Study the Bible</i> 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.</p> <hr/> <p>1. What does this teach me about God? What's the difference between seeing Christ as an instrument that God used to fix things up versus seeing Christ as our salvation?</p>

	<p>2. What does this reveal about my sin (or the human condition)? In this passage, Paul is reminding us that Jesus Christ is the gift of the Gospel. What happens when we mistakenly see 'blessings' as the principal gift of the Gospel?</p> <p>3. How does this point to Christ's redemption? "In Christ" is one of the Apostle Paul's favourite ways to describe our relationship to God; he uses the phrase over 100 times. Read Ephesians 1:1-14 and count the number of times Paul uses the phrase. With Colossians 2:6-7 and Ephesians 1:1-14 in mind, what does it mean to be "in Christ"? How does this play out in your life?</p> <p>4. What is the one truth that I need to apply to my life this week? Pastor Brian shared two tools that we can use to help us walk in Christ: 1) the instrument of his Word and 2) the discipline of thanksgiving. Which of these tools do you feel that God is prompting you to use?</p>
<p>APPLY</p> <p>How do we respond to God's teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As a believer, do you struggle with trying to 'earn' God's favour, or do you have this sense that you need to pay off a debt? How does that affect the way you relate to him? 2. Would you say that your life is rooted in Christ? How can you deepen your roots in Him? 3. Share a time in your life when you felt that there was some painful 'deconstruction' going on and the good work that came from that experience. 4. What area in your life needs to be "remodeled" or may be undergoing renovation right now?
<p>PRAYER PRACTICE</p>	<p>In response to the challenge this week, take a few minutes to dig into God's Word and reflect on what He may be trying to say to you. Then respond to him in thanksgiving and praise. Regardless of how you're feeling, begin to count your blessings one by one.</p> <p>As a group, have each member write a few of their blessings on sticky notes. Pray for them out loud.</p>