



## Week 4: Colossians - Looking the Part

### 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.

<b>CHECK-IN</b>	Did you have an opportunity to rest in God's unmerited grace this week?
<b>BIG IDEA</b>	Paul has been arguing that we are set free from the powers around us, now he tells us that we have been set free towards living a life above moral reproach. God's plan is to first make us new; then He challenges us to live as new people. In short, we don't have to be like we've always been. We can break free from the past by putting off the old life, and putting on the new through 4 disciplines: Looking Up, Looking Out, Looking In, and Looking Around.
<b>DISCUSS</b>	<p><b>Read Colossians 3:1-17 together.</b></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. <b>What does this teach me about God?</b> What does it mean to have been "raised with Christ...seated at the right hand of God" (vs. 1)?</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <b>What does this reveal about my sin (or the human condition)?</b> What are some tendencies that the Scripture outlines that we might struggle with?</li> <li>3. <b>How does this point to Christ's redemption?</b> How does Jesus' sacrifice enable us to become God's chosen people, in the here and now (vs. 12-17)?</li> <li>4. <b>What is the one truth that I need to apply to my life this week?</b> Have you identified who you are in Jesus? What difference does that identification make in your everyday life?</li> </ol>
<p><b>APPLY</b></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"> <li>1. <b>Look up:</b> Where are you looking today and what does your mind focus on? What gets the attention of your heart?</li> <li>2. <b>Look out:</b> What are some habits from your "old self" that you might need to rid yourself of?</li> <li>3. <b>Look in:</b> How can you examine your thoughts, attitudes and knowledge, in order to take responsibility for renewing your mind in Christ Jesus?</li> <li>4. <b>Look around:</b> In which areas might you be harbouring some prejudice or division? How can you be more inclusive?</li> </ol> <p>(If there is not enough time during group, assign this section as a take-home activity).</p>
<p><b>PRAYER PRACTICE</b></p>	<p><b>Praying Scripture</b></p> <p>In response to the passage, have a group member pray verses 12-17 out loud, in the form of a blessing:</p> <p>"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."</p>