



## Week 1: Colossians - A New Life in Christ

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### 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>	As we begin a new series on the book of Colossians, what parts of the sermon stood out to you? What questions do you have, and what are you curious to learn more of?
<b>BIG IDEA</b>	Ultimate life is experienced in learning and surrendering to God's will. He is pleased by a worthy life lived. A worthy life lived will bear fruit, grow in the knowledge of God, endure in hard times, and give thanks continually.
<b>DISCUSS</b>	<b>Read Colossians 1:1-14 together.</b> 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.

	<p>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/> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>What does this teach me about God?</b> Please read <b>Colossians 1:14</b>. What has God done for us? Since we are already rescued, why are we still here on earth and not in heaven?</li> <li>2. <b>What does this reveal about my sin (or the human condition)?</b> How can we assess our readiness to do God's will? If we are not quite ready, what is it that makes it difficult to allow God's will to take priority over our own will?</li> <li>3. <b>How does this point to Christ's redemption?</b> When we live a life worthy of God, what are the results? See <b>Colossians 1:10b-14</b> for answers. Of the four results, which one tends to show up in your life more often when you are living in God's will?</li> <li>4. <b>What is the one truth that I need to apply to my life this week?</b> How do we “live a life worthy of the Lord” (Colossian 1:10)? Refer to the application questions below for ideas.</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. Rick Husband, found a way to honour God and others with his life choices. If you were to (as part of your will) create and leave a video behind, for those that you love, what would you communicate?</li> <li>2. A set of practical questions to assess your readiness to live out God's will is listed on the next page. Review them to assess your readiness.</li> <li>3. What are the things that truly make you come alive? How can you realign your life and life choices to live out God's purposes for you?</li> </ol>
<p><b>PRAYER PRACTICE</b></p>	<p><b>Meditations: (individually)</b></p> <p>In a quiet place, for a few minutes, meditate on the phrase <b>“Well done, good and faithful servant”</b>. Imagine that you are hearing God speak these very words, over and over to you, and that God is well pleased with you. Then allow your heart, soul, and mind to hear God's will for you, and the worthy life he wants you to live. Repeat this meditation throughout the coming week.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Prayer Partners: (in pairs)</b></p> <p>Take turns praying this prayer for each other.</p> <p><b>“May you be filled with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. May you live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in</b></p>

every way. Amen.”

***Reflect on these questions to consider your readiness to live out God's will.***

- 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?
- Am I willing to be engulfed with God's will or do I simply want help in making a hard decision?
- Am I ready to love what he loves, to go where he sends me, to obey what he tells me to do, to suffer when that is required, to wait when that is required, to endure when that is required, and to rejoice when that is required?
- Have I agreed with God in advance that I will do his will even before it is revealed to me?
- Will I take the daily small steps that are before me while waiting for the big steps to be revealed?
- Do I understand that the will of God is more about who I am on the inside than where I am on the outside?
- Am I ready for my life to change if that's what needs to happen?