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## Small Group Discussion Guide — September 21, 2025

- Series: All In All
  - Sermon: Gospel Life
  - Scripture: Colossians 1:3-14 (NLT)
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### **FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK**

In a world full of distractions, the race that matters most is toward Christ. Looking back on last week, when were you able to turn from distraction and fix your heart on Him, maybe even showing and modeling His love in the process?

### **CONNECT**

1. What stood out for you from this week's service, and why?
2. Imagine you could hang a billboard with one message for the whole world to see. What would it say?

### **ENGAGE**

Read Col. 1:3-14

1. In vs. 3-5, Paul highlights faith and love as products of confident hope. Why must hope exist first? How else do you see these three words connected to each other in this passage?
2. What does it mean to tell the whole truth about God's grace (v. 6)? Conversely, how does one betray grace?
3. In vs. 9-10, Paul prays for knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. Why does Paul emphasize these qualities for the Colossians? What's happening at this time in Colosse?
4. Vs. 13-14 describe God rescuing us from darkness and transferring us into Christ's kingdom. What do you notice about the contrast Paul is making here? What is he referring to?

### **APPLY**

1. In this letter to Colosse, Paul's invitation is to root our lives deeply in Christ. In today's sermon, David asked, "Where do you live?" The first answer is your physical address, but the more important question is this: Where does your soul make its home?
2. Colossians 1:3-14 calls believers to live "up and out," rather than "down and in" as sin pulls us. And, our perspective matters because how we see the world shapes how we live. What does it mean to you to trade a "down and in" perspective for an "up and out" one? Where do you still find that difficult?

3. Joy, love, gratitude, and hope are signs of an intentional Christian. But, as David reminded us, the challenge isn't knowledge it's application. Deep faith is cultivated through worship, scripture, prayer, and fellowship. What's one specific step you can take this week to grow more intentional in your walk with God?

### **PRAYER**

Dear God, thank You for this day. Thank you for this opportunity to deepen our faith, and to more fully receive Your love for us. God, the weight of our sins feel stronger than ever and it's too easy to look inward for answers and relief. Please forgive us. Father, we know You call us to a higher way of being. Help us lift our eyes to You, our Rescuer, so we may grow a more confident hope of what You have reserved for us in heaven. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

### **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE**

Colossians 1:23 (NLT)

### **QUOTES**

"Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid."  
Frederick Buechner

"Faith and hope are like the rocket boosters that propel us into the orbit of love. They are necessary to get us off the ground, but they are not the journey itself. The journey is love, and love is the destination." Peter Kreeft

"The dangerous mythology of the day is that we are being loving when we accept people's self-understanding. But if that understanding is actually a false image constructed by the idols of contemporary culture, then the kind and loving gift is to unmask these lies about identity. The human self is never more truly itself than when it is living in Christ, the restorer of the holy image of God in humans."  
Craig Barnes