
Small Group Discussion Guide — OCTOBER 5, 2025

- Series: All in All
- Sermon: Start with How
- Scripture: Colossians 2:6-15

FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

Last week we talked about living our lives up and out rather than down and in. In what ways were you able to put this into practice over the past week? Can you share any specific experiences where you noticed a difference?

CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. If you could stand in awe of any natural wonder in the world - mountains, oceans, waterfalls, coral reefs, rainforests, deserts - what would it be and why?

ENGAGE

1. In verse 6, Paul calls believers to be rooted and built up, and abounding in thanksgiving. What does it mean to be firmly rooted in Christ? Why do you think thanksgiving is so essential to our spiritual growth?
2. Paul warns believers in verse 8 not to be taken captive by hollow and deceptive ideas. Why do you think those kinds of messages can be so tempting or convincing? How can we recognize when something is hollow rather than truly life-giving?
3. In verses 13-14, Paul describes the fullness we have in Christ and how he has forgiven and freed us. He says we "were dead in our sins" before Christ. What do you think that means? How does that contrast with being "made alive" with Christ? Why is it sometimes hard for us to fully accept that we are forgiven? And how should knowing Christ has forgiven us change the way we can forgive others.

APPLY

1. Prophets could call people to repentance and angels can bring protection and messages, but only Jesus - fully God and fully man - can defeat sin within us. How does Jesus' unique nature as both divine and human make Him the only one capable of restoring our relationship with God? How does knowing this change the way you view transformation in your own life?

2. Just as Yosemite's, waterfalls flow from the mountains and the trees stand firm because of their deep roots, our lives are meant to be grounded in the Gospel and nourished in God's love. How do we live out faith that stays rooted in God's love while reflecting His beauty to the world around us? What might it look like to have spiritual eyes opened to the beauty of the Gospel this week?
3. We have many people in authority over us - parents, teachers, bosses, leaders - but Jesus is our ultimate authority, and every knee will bow to Him. How can we live in a way that shows Jesus' authority matters most in our choices, words, or priorities this week?
4. Jesus was nailed to the cross, and in His body, He took on our sin so we could be forgiven and free. What does it mean that Jesus took our sin into himself and it died there with Him on the cross? If this is true, why do we still struggle with our sin nature?

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for rooting us in Christ and building us up in Him. Thank You that in Jesus our sins are forgiven, our debt is canceled, and we are made alive with Him. Help us to walk in Him each day, overflowing with gratitude and keeping our eyes fixed on the beauty of the Gospel. May Your grace continue to transform our hearts and our lives. May we always have spiritual eyes to see Your beauty and glory. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

GOING DEEPER

Colossians 2:15 says Jesus "disarmed the rulers and authorities." What does it mean for your faith that the powers of darkness have already been defeated - even though they are still active in the world? Where do you see God's light breaking through the darkness in your own life or in the world around you? How can we help each other keep our eyes on that light?

QUOTES

"So three days in darkness slept
The morning sun of righteousness
But rose to shame the throes of death
And over turn his rule...."

"On Friday a thief
On Sunday a king
Laid down in grief
But awoke holding keys."

"Now daughters and the sons of men
Would pay not their dues again
The debt of blood they owed was rent
When the day rolled a new...."

"To Hell on that day
The first born of the slain
The man Jesus Christ
Laid death in His grave..."

From Death in His Grave - John Mark McMillan

