

colossians

WEEKLY SMALL GROUP
LEADER GUIDE



week one

READ CHAPTER ONE

discussion questions

What does it mean to bear fruit by changing lives with the Good News? (verse 6) What makes the Gospel feel like “good news” to you? Where have you seen the fruit of the Gospel in your life or in the lives of others?

The book of Colossians includes the theme of Christ’s supremacy. What does that idea mean? What does it mean to you, specifically for Christ to be over everything else?

Talk about what verse 15 means, “Christ is the visible image of the invisible of God.” Discuss verses 16-20 and ask what lines or ideas stick out to everyone.

How do you think it’s possible to be reconciled to Christ through his death? What does that mean? When have you experienced his reconciliation?

week one

ACTIVITIES

materials

Notecards and pens for the group

question

What are the things that feel like big priorities in your life? List them on a notecard in order of most important to least important. Examples: church, family, friends, school, sports, etc.

activity

On one side of the notecard, have the group write down their list of priorities in order. Once everyone is done, talk about what it was like to list everything and to think about what feels important and what doesn't. On the back of the card, have them write Colossians 1:13, "For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins." Encourage them to hold onto the card and reflect on their list and the verse that week.

week two

READ CHAPTER TWO

discussion questions

What do you think it means to grow roots deep into Jesus and to build your life on Jesus? (verse 7) What do you think that looks like or could look like in your life?

Talk about a time you think you experienced or were told an “empty” philosophy, idea, or promise (verse 8). What was it and what was that like?

What does it feel like to be judged by someone else? When have you judged someone else? Discuss the idea of condemning others or judging others based on outward actions or appearances. Why do you think we do that or have received it? (verses 16-19)

What does it mean to be a part of the body of Christ? (verse 19) When do you think you have experienced the work of being in the body in relation to others and to Christ, as the head of the body?

week two

ACTIVITIES

materials

A large Sticky Note sheet and a marker

question

What are some things that you think help to both grow your roots deep into Christ and build your life on Christ? What might be the differences between the two categories of things in our lives? What are similarities? Do some things seem more “invisible” or “visible”? Have the group list things in each category one at a time.

activity

On the large Sticky Note sheet, draw a line horizontally across the middle. Title the top portion, “Building” and the bottom portion, “Roots” and as the group is listing things for each section, write them in their corresponding area. Encourage the group to think about the characteristics of things in each category.

week three

READ CHAPTER THREE

discussion questions

How do you think we can learn how to set our minds on and think about the things of heaven and eternity instead of earth and the temporary? What are some examples of things of heaven and of earth?

(verses 1-2)

Talk about verse 3, “For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.” What does it mean to die to your life? What do you think Paul means by “real life” and what does it mean to be hidden in Christ?

Ask the group to give examples of what it looks like to “clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”

(verse 12) What are some examples of each of those things listed and how do we “wear” them every day?

Talk about what it means for the peace of Christ to rule in your heart? (verse 15) Have you ever experienced that before? If so, what was that like? How did it inform your actions or effect you?

week three

ACTIVITIES

materials

Index cards and pens for the group

question

Have the group answer this question to themselves, not to the group. What is an area of your life or heart that needs Christ's peace to rule over it? What is something you feel like you need to surrender to Christ and to ask him to take it and cover it with his peace?

activity

Have the group write their answers on their index cards or in their notebook. Give them time to write and reflect. Open up a time of prayer to themselves, where the group can sit quietly and pray. Play some soft music if you want and let everyone spend some time with Jesus on their own. Close the group in prayer after an appropriate amount of time.

week four

READ CHAPTER FOUR

discussion questions

Is there a difference between praying and devoting yourself to prayer? (verse 2) How do you think we can implement the devotion of prayer in our lives? How does being “alert” and “thankful” come into play?

Talk about some ways that we are able to “live wisely” as followers of Jesus? What does Paul mean by making the most of our opportunities? (verse 5) When have you experienced this in a relationship?

How do you think we can best care for the people in our lives who do not know Jesus? What do you think Paul means by being gracious in our conversations? (verse 6) What does that look like? How do you think we can add grace to how we talk to people?

week four

ACTIVITIES

materials

Index cards and pens for the group

question

What is something you can do or implement this week in your relationships and conversations (with friends, family, classmates, coworkers, etc.) that would show grace? What are some ways you can devote yourself to prayer for specific people in your life this week? Think about things that might help you stay alert to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

activity

Have the group write their answers and all their thoughts on their index cards or in their notebook. Encourage them to write down names of people so that they can pray for them specifically this week. Challenge the group to take an action this week and to come back next time to share about the experience.