

Small Group Study Guide

ICE BREAK

- What's something you've learned to appreciate more deeply over time—something you didn't fully understand or value at first?

STUDY

1. **Chris opened by describing three ways we relate to the gospel — taking it in, walking it out, and passing it on.** a) Which of those three comes most naturally to you, and which feels most challenging? b) Have you ever been in a conversation where your faith in Jesus created an awkward or uncomfortable moment with someone of a different belief? c) What was that like?
2. **Colossians 1:15 describes Jesus as the image of the invisible God. It is one thing to say "Jesus is like God" and something very different to say "Jesus is all of God."** a) Why does that distinction matter? b) How does it change the way you approach reading the Gospels?
3. **Colossians 1:16-17 says that all things were created through Jesus, for Jesus, and that in Him all things hold together. Unfortunately, the world does not always look like it is being held together.** a) How do you personally hold the tension between trusting that Jesus is sovereign and being honest that things are genuinely broken?
4. **Reconciliation requires a reckoning — there can be no peace without something being dealt with honestly and fully.** a) How does the cross function as both a reckoning with sin and an offer of peace? b) Why is it important that it is both?
5. **Colossians 1:22-23 says we are presented holy, without blemish, and free from accusation — but it connects that to continuing in faith, established and firm.** a) What do you think it means practically to "continue in your faith, established and firm"? b) What has threatened to move you away from that anchor?

6. **Chris described two groups of people. The first group is still trying to pay for their own sin — carrying guilt, shame, and anxiety that sometimes gets taken out on others. The second group has learned to process sin through the cross but struggles to live under Jesus' supremacy in daily life.** Which group is closer to where you are right now and why? If you don't see yourself in either group then share why.
7. **Our adversary is fine with people not hating Jesus as long as they do not see Jesus for all that He truly is.** In what ways have you settled for a smaller or less particular version of Jesus than the one described in Colossians 1?

REFLECT

- The gospel is not a problem to be solved — it is a reality to be inhabited. Give yourself space to sit with the weight of what Colossians 1 claims about Jesus. The most meaningful outcome of tonight's discussion may not be a new insight but a renewed and more honest trust in Jesus.

PRAY

- As a group, share one word or short phrase that captures what you most need from Jesus right now. Gather those words and bring them together in a prayer that echoes the themes of the passage — that He is all of God, over all things, and the reconciliation of all things, including whatever each person just named.