

Session 1 Savior Supreme
Colossians 1:15-23
March 1, 2026

Leader notes:

- Paul is the author of Colossians probably in the early part of the decade of 60 A.D. Paul had not been to Colossae, a town about 120 miles west of Ephesus, in Asia Minor (current day Turkey). This church was probably established during Paul's 3 years in Ephesus. Although Colossae had once be a prosperous commercial center, it's prominence had diminished.
- While in prison, Paul was visited by Epaphras, who was a native of Colossae and more than likely the pastor of that church. He reported to Paul the false teaching that was going on in the church, which prompted Paul to write the letter we have in our New Testament.

Open:

- As a kid, what "super hero" character did you look up to and why?

Dig:

- Read Colossians 1:15-23
- The "firstborn" has the rights of an heir. What rights does Jesus have? What is his relationship to "all things"? Why stress this?
- What is his relationship to God and the church? What does "fullness" imply?
- How would you define "reconciliation" in ordinary terms? How was this achieved by Jesus?
- What *before* and *after* story do you see in verses 21-23?

Reflect:

- From this passage, what would you say to someone who asked you, "How can I get to know God?"
- At times, what people (or forces) seem to be more powerful than Jesus? Why?
- How do you respond to the fact that even these things are under Christ's authority?

Session 2 Savior Supreme
Colossians 2:6-23
March 15, 2026

Leader notes:

- While in prison, Paul was visited by Epaphras, who was a native of Colossae and more than likely the pastor of that church. He reported to Paul the false teaching that was going on in the church, which prompted Paul to write the letter we have in our New Testament.
- The Colossae church was coming under the influence of false teachers. While we don't know the exact idea of the teaching, we can infer syncretism or the combining of various teachings from different religions to come up with something new. Greek philosophy, cultic practices, Christianity, and Jewish ideas were being blended in order to have a "fuller" type of spiritual experience. Jesus was seen as one of several deities through which one could approach the Divine.

Open:

- As a kid, what did you think a "religious" person was like? How did you feel about that type of person?
- Do you consider your parents "permissive" or "strict"? Why?

Dig:

- Read Colossians 2:6-23
- What does "living in Christ" (v.6) entail? What does the phrase "rooted and built up" imply to you?
- What are "the basic principles of this world" (vv.8,20) and the "powers and authorities" (vv.10, 15)? How did Christ give the Colossians victory over these things?
- What kind of circumcision is done by Christ? How did he do it?
- What experiences does the believer share with Christ (vv.9-13)? What implications are drawn from this?
- What is the result of trying to base one's relationship with God on rule-keeping or on private visions, as the false teachers were doing?

Reflect:

- When have you felt like the "roots" of your faith were barely below surface? What helps you to sink those roots deeper?
- What additions to the faith have you encountered from people who try to encourage you to be "more spiritual"?
- What convinced you that trying to live up to religious rules couldn't change you on the inside?

Session 3 Savior Supreme
Colossians 3:1-25
March 22, 2026

Leader notes:

- The Colossae church was coming under the influence of false teachers. While we don't know the exact idea of the teaching, we can infer syncretism or the combining of various teachings from different religions to come up with something new. Greek philosophy, cultic practices, Christianity, and Jewish ideas were being blended in order to have a "fuller" type of spiritual experience. Jesus was seen as one of several deities through which one could approach the Divine.
- Rigorous ascetic disciplines were used as a means to experience trance-like "visions". In contrast, Paul presents Jesus as the true Lord of the universe and highlights love, thankfulness, and forgiveness as the marks of true spirituality.

Open:

- When you need to feel like a "new person", what outfit do you like to wear?
- In buying clothes, are you a "new brand" buyer? A bargain hunter? Style conscious? Spouse conscious? What best describes you?

Dig:

- Read Colossians 3:1-25
- What is the way to spiritual life (vv.1-4)? How is setting your mind and heart on Christ related to what he has already done for us (v.1)? To what he will do for us (v.4)?
- What contrasts do you see between the "clothes" of the earthly nature and those of God's chosen people?
- What does all this "putting off" and "putting on" actually involved: quick-change act? A disguise? A burial service? A shopping spree?
- What practical difference does this "new clothing" make in the relationship between wives and husbands? Between parents and kids? What confirms that all these relationships are to be built around Christ?

Reflect:

- We get all too used to "earthly nature" clothing. Which aspect of your old nature feels like a comfortable old T-shirt to you now? Why is it difficult to shed or remove?
- With what piece of Christ's wardrobe would you like to replace it? Which aspect of Christ's character do you need to clothe yourself with, in relation to your husband or wife? Your parents or children? Your employer or employees?
- How can your small group help you accomplish that?

Session 4 Savior Supreme
Colossians 4:1-18
March 29, 2026

Leader notes:

- The Colossae church was coming under the influence of false teachers. While we don't know the exact idea of the teaching, we can infer syncretism or the combining of various teachings from different religions to come up with something new. Greek philosophy, cultic practices, Christianity, and Jewish ideas were being blended in order to have a "fuller" type of spiritual experience. Jesus was seen as one of several deities through which one could approach the Divine.
- Rigorous ascetic disciplines were used as a means to experience trance-like "visions". In contrast, Paul presents Jesus as the true Lord of the universe and highlights love, thankfulness, and forgiveness as the marks of true spirituality.

Open:

- In high school, who were two of your best friends? What was one quality about them that stands out to you?

Dig:

- Read Colossians 4:1-18
- In advancing the gospel (vv.2-6), what role is played by prayer? By watchfulness? Thankfulness? Open doors? Closed doors/chains? Wise actions? Opportunism? Graceful talk? Salty talk?
- Why is thankfulness such a key ingredient in a Christian's life?
- What type of friend is Tychicus (vv.7-8)?
- Likewise, what do you know about Onesimus (v.9; Philemon 10-16)? Which of Paul's rules, instructions, and greetings would be appropriate in preparing to receive this runaway slave from Colossae? How might the Colossians feel about him?
- In light of the influence of the false teachers, why would Paul's commendation of Epaphras be especially important (1:7; 4:12-13)?

Reflect:

- What has helped you to grow the most in your prayer life? What obstacles to prayer do you feel now?
- From vv.5-6, what principles do you want to build into your life as you relate to non-believers?
- Seeing how Paul operated with a team of fellow Christians, what does that imply for you? For your small group?
- Of the qualities used to describe these people, which one would you like others to say about you in five years? How do you get moving in that direction?

Session 5 Easter Sunday: Savior Supreme
Luke 24:13-35
April 5, 2026

Leader notes:

- Today we celebrate Easter. It's not about bunnies and eggs but about the true story of Jesus conquering death and sin, creating a way for us to be right before our heavenly Father.
- We want to explore how Jesus meets us in our confusion and reveals Himself through Scripture and community.

Open:

- If you got laid off of your job today, where would you go to "get yourself together"?

Dig:

- Read Luke 24:13-35
- Eavesdrop on these two disciples: what things are they likely talking about as they walk (see vv.19-24)? What tones of voice do you hear? what hopes are dashed? What plans might they be making? How do they react to the "stranger"?
- How does the time at dinner open their eyes? What happens to Jesus when they recognize him? Why do you think he leaves?
- What has happened to the other disciples that has caused them to change their minds from v.11? Why a special appearance to Peter? What expectations must they have now?

Reflect:

- Where is your "Road to Emmaus"—the place where Jesus surprised you recently? What happened?
- How well do you think you can explain the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the way a person can have a relationship with him? Have everyone give it shot.