

JOURNEY GROUPS

NOVEMBER 22 LEADER GUIDE

LEADERS NOTES

A few notes for you as a leader as you meet again this week:

- As you think about your group this week, Thanksgiving is coming up. Giving thanks is sometimes a seasonal or irregular thing in our lives, but it deserves to be daily. And as Christians, we have so much to be thankful for. Consider spending some intentional time as a group in prayer, giving thanks for what you have seen God do over the past three months and what you believe by faith that He will do in the coming weeks.
- As you look at your group, who do you think might someday lead a group? Start praying specifically for that right now, and let Pastor Ryan know so he can pray too.
- Prayer request: Leading people to the feet of Jesus requires leaders to be close followers of Him. Pray for yourself to be this for others.

CARE MINISTRY NOTE

- On Sunday, Nov. 22, from 2-4 p.m., we'll host two special Surviving the Holidays events: one for those grieving the loss of a loved one (register @ GriefShare.org) and another for those experiencing the hardship of divorce or separation (register @ DivorceCare.org). Childcare will be provided. Send questions to care@journeykingman.com.
- In addition to giving thanks this week, you could also spend some time in prayer for those who find the holidays challenging.

SHARE - ICE BREAKERS

- What is something that you have discovered in nature, or anywhere in life, that you can become completely captivated by?

STUDY

Digging Deeper into **Colossians 2:8–15**:

1. Have someone **read Colossians 2:8-15**. One of the sermon's key illustrations this week was Paul's understanding of a Roman victory parade. What were some highlights of those famous processions through the city after a triumphant war campaign? *[A Roman triumph was a public celebration of a major military victory. Crowds watched as the procession displayed captured weapons, treasures, and sometimes artwork taken from conquered cities. Captive kings and commanders could be marched through the streets in public humiliation. The victorious general rode in a chariot, and his soldiers followed, singing and celebrating. The procession made its way to the Capitoline Hill. Everyone watching could see who had won and who had been defeated.]*
2. To begin our study, **reread verses 8-10**. What hollow and deceptive philosophies can captivate us today? Include both human/tradition examples and pagan examples. *[A teaching becomes spiritually captivating when we begin to trust its promises for the fullness, security, or standing with God, which we actually have in Christ. These ideas often appeal to real longings, which helps make them persuasive. Some deceptive philosophies might include: 1) "God accepts me because I'm a good person." 2) "A faithful Christian always does things the way our family or church has done them." 3) "My worth depends on how productive, successful, or admired I am." 4) Looking to astrology or tarot for direction. 5) Seeking protection through charms or rituals. 6) Trusting in manifestation or positive thinking to give us control over the future. Each of these deceptive ideas offers guidance, security, or power through a source that tries to replace Jesus Christ.]*
3. On Sunday, Matt gave three tests to determine if we are truly captivated by Christ or captivated by ourselves and/or the things of this world. Look at all three questions and discuss how each can help us see what we are truly captivated by.
    a. Do you share your faith? *[Answer on the next page ----->*

a. -----> *[What we treasure tends to come up in conversation. Sharing our faith can show that Jesus matters enough for us to risk awkwardness or rejection. Where we hesitate, it helps to ask what is shaping our silence. Is it fear of someone's opinion, uncertainty about what to say, or a lack of attention to what Christ has done for us?]*

b. Do you serve and do ministry? *[Serving reveals what we are willing to give our time and energy to. It also exposes motives. Would I still serve if someone else got the credit? Look for ways you already care for people and for places where Jesus may be inviting you to give more of yourself.]*

c. Do you give to the mission and to others? *[Our spending shows what we value, and our willingness to give can reveal where we look for security. Generosity expresses trust in God's provision and a desire to see others helped and the gospel advance. People with very different means can both give sacrificially.]*

4. R**eread Colossians 2:11-13**. What point is Paul making in these verses? *[Paul describes what God has done by uniting us to Christ. The circumcision performed without human hands pictures a decisive break with our old existence under sin's rule. Baptism portrays our burial and resurrection with Christ, and Paul connects being raised with him to faith in the power of the God who raised Jesus. We were spiritually dead, and God made us alive with Christ and forgave our sins. When an old pattern resurfaces, we can face it as people who already belong to Christ and have received new life from him.]*

5. **Reread verses 14-15**. We all had criminal records against God. There were case files on us. What happened on the cross that freed us from our guilty past? *[In the sermon's case-file illustration, the charges were real. Paul pictures a record of debt standing against us and condemning us. God canceled that debt by nailing it to the cross. Jesus bore the judgment our sins deserved. We can therefore admit our guilt honestly and trust that, in Christ, the debt has been dealt with. Our forgiveness rests on what happened at the cross, even on days when we still feel ashamed.]*

6. In verse 15, Paul places Jesus at the front of that victory parade. What defeated enemies follow Him, chained and destroyed? *[Verse 15 names the powers and authorities. In this context, Paul is pointing to hostile spiritual powers, including Satan and the forces allied with him. Paul says they were disarmed and publicly exposed as defeated. Verse 14 explains why the accusation of guilt has lost its condemning force for those in Christ. The debt it depended on has been canceled. Sin and death belong to the wider biblical picture of Christ's victory, while the captives in this verse are the hostile powers themselves. The cross, which looked like Jesus' public humiliation, became the very means of his public triumph.]*
7. How can we become 'full' on Jesus and overcome our thirsts for other things? *[Paul says believers have already been brought to fullness in Christ. We grow by learning to draw on what we have received in him. Start by naming a thirst and the promise attached to it. What am I hoping approval, money, comfort, or control will give me? Then bring that desire to Jesus in prayer and respond to a truth from the passage. If you crave approval, for example, remember that God has forgiven you and made you alive with Christ. Then take one step you would usually avoid out of fear of someone's opinion.]*
8. How can we become more captivated by Christ? *[The heart can exchange an old affection for a new one. Although we know idols are false, our hearts can still easily want them. As the gospel shows us God's love in Christ, a new affection begins to loosen the old one's hold. Someone who lives for approval, for instance, can begin to risk being misunderstood as Christ's love becomes more precious to them. But the Holy Spirit's counsel is critical to helping our hearts see Christ's beauty above all else.]*

PRAYER

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