



JOURNEY GROUPS

OCTOBER 11 LEADER GUIDE

LEADERS NOTES

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

- At the end of the month, we have a Trunk-or-Treat Event. Candy donations are greatly appreciated. Journey Groups can sign up to do their own themed trunk. This event also requires lots of volunteers, and sign-ups are available in the Worship Center lobby. Please pray that this event will help us make connections that lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pastor Ryan sent a text with a link to a survey to update him on how things are going in your group. Please fill it out so he knows your status.
- Some encouragement: Lead with humility, not perfection. You don't have to have all the answers or produce spiritual growth in your group. Your role is to faithfully point people to Jesus and trust God to do the transforming work (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

CARE MINISTRY NOTE

- If you know someone who needs encouragement or assistance, or if you or someone in your group wants to learn more about Journey's Care Ministry, email care@journeykingman.com.
- Our Visit Team offers Christ-centered care, encouragement, and prayer to those in the hospital, rehab, or returning home. Please contact care@journeykingman.com if you or someone you know could use a caring visit and a little encouragement.

SHARE - ICE BREAKERS

- What quality do you value most in a friendship?
- Who is someone whose faith has encouraged or challenged yours?

STUDY

Digging Deeper into Colossians 1:1–8:

1. We are starting a new series in Colossians. Have someone read Colossians 1:1-8. Paul wrote this letter. Who is Paul? *[Paul was an apostle of Jesus Christ and author of much of the New Testament. Originally known as Saul of Tarsus, he was a Jewish man from the tribe of Benjamin who was trained in the Jewish law (Phil 3:5–6; Acts 22:3). After encountering the risen Jesus Christ, he became one of the most influential figures in the early church. God gave him authority and ministry.]*
2. What role did Paul play in the early days of the church? *[Paul traveled throughout the Roman Empire as a missionary proclaiming Jesus Christ, particularly among Gentiles. He helped establish churches. He trained younger leaders, including Timothy and Titus, to lead and teach churches. His letters instructed churches, corrected false teaching, encouraged believers, and established foundational Christian doctrine. He sought to establish healthy churches where believers would mature in Christ and spread the gospel to others.]*
3. What is Paul's backstory? How did he become the Apostle to the Gentiles? Why is it ironic that Paul became one of the greatest builders of God's church in our history? *[Paul's story is one of the clearest biblical examples of God's transforming grace. Before his conversion, Paul was known as Saul. He was a zealous Pharisee who believed that the growing Christian movement threatened the faith of Israel. He persecuted Christians, approved of Stephen's execution, and sought to imprison followers of Jesus. On the road to Damascus, Saul encountered the risen Jesus Christ. Jesus confronted him, and Saul was temporarily blinded. The Lord then sent Ananias to minister to him. Saul received his sight, was baptized, and began proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God. The man who once tried to destroy the church became one of its greatest missionaries and builders. The persecutor became a preacher; the opponent of Christianity became one of its most devoted servants.]*

4. On Sunday, Matt highlighted that Timothy is mentioned at the beginning. As Paul's apprentice, Timothy shadowed the Apostle, learning to be like him, and when Paul left Ephesus, Timothy was ready to lead the church, even though he was young. Do you have a Timothy in your life, someone you are investing in and discipling into maturity and fruitfulness? *[Answers will vary. Paul's relationship with Timothy illustrates the biblical pattern of spiritual multiplication: mature believers invest in others who can, in turn, invest in still others. Discipleship is more than sharing information. It involves modeling the Christian life, building relationships, and equipping others to make disciples themselves.]*
5. The Colossians were a special faith community, and they were doing some important things very well. What compliments does Paul give them in the **first 6 verses**? *[Their faith in Christ Jesus (vs. 4). Their love for all the saints (vs. 4). Their hope laid up in heaven (vs. 5). Their reception of the gospel (vs. 5–6). The gospel's fruitfulness among them (vs. 6).]*
6. Matt really highlighted on Sunday just how big a role THANKSGIVING played in Paul's personal life and how often it showed up in his teaching. Why is there really no room for Christians to be known as complainers? *[Christians have extraordinary reasons to give thanks: God's grace, forgiveness of sins, reconciliation through Christ, the indwelling Holy Spirit, the promises of Scripture, and the hope of eternal life.]*
7. How can your life become saturated in thanksgiving? What can you do to 'overflow with thankfulness?' *[Colossians 2:6–7 teaches that believers are to continue living in Christ just as they received him, becoming rooted, built up, and established in the faith, and “abounding in thanksgiving.” Thanksgiving is not merely a response to favorable circumstances. It grows out of an increasingly deep relationship with Jesus Christ.]*
8. Have someone **reread Colossians 1:6-8**. Who is Epaphras and why was he so special? *[He planted 3 churches (Laodicea, Colossae, and Hierapolis) after responding to the gospel himself. Paul sent him to the Colossians as one of his disciples.]*

9. **Romans 1:16** says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." Epaphras, armed with faith, love for his neighbors, and the gospel, planted 3 churches; one later appears in the book of Revelation. What keeps you from sharing the gospel with the people God has placed in your life? *[Answers will vary. But common obstacles include fear of rejection, fear of offending someone, a sense of inadequacy, busyness and distraction, valuing comfort in relationships too much, or a general lack of intentionality in prayerfully pursuing meaningful conversations.]*
10. Matt summed up the message of Colossians in one sentence: "Colossians proclaims the absolute supremacy and the sole sufficiency of Jesus Christ." He also warned us that we may not be in danger of denying Jesus, but we may be in danger of dethroning Jesus. What does that mean? *[To deny Jesus would be to reject who he is or refuse to acknowledge him as Lord. Dethroning Jesus is subtler: we may verbally affirm him as Lord while letting something else exercise practical control over our lives. We dethrone Jesus when we let something else take priority over his authority, his Word, or his purposes (e.g., money, approval, comfort, control, success, other relationships, or personal preferences).]*
11. What in your life needs to decrease right now so Jesus can take his rightful place as the King of your heart and the Lord of your life? *[Answers will vary. A helpful way to respond is to identify one specific area, confess it honestly before God, consider what obedience would look like, take one concrete step of repentance, and ask your brothers and sisters to pray for you and help you produce fruit in keeping with repentance.]*

PRAYER

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