

ROOTED IN CHRIST
Week 1 Group Discussion Guide
Christ Over All: Colossians 1:15–23

Purpose: Our goal is not simply to discuss ideas but to gather around God's Word together. As we open the Scriptures, invite the Holy Spirit to deepen our understanding of Christ and transform us into His image. Before Paul tells believers how to live, he reminds them who Jesus is. Everything else in Colossians flows from this foundation.

Opening Conversation

Take a few moments to reconnect before opening God's Word.

- What has been one highlight from your week?
- Where have you seen God's faithfulness recently?
- Is there anything our group can celebrate or carry with you in prayer today?

Read Together

Read **Colossians 1:15–23** aloud together.

Invite two or three people to share the reading.

When the reading is finished, spend **one minute in silence**. Encourage everyone to simply reflect on what they heard before beginning the discussion.

Observe the Text:

- What words or phrases are repeated throughout this passage?
- Make a list of every statement Paul makes about Jesus.
- Which description of Jesus stands out to you most?
- What surprises you about the way Paul introduces Christ?

Understand the Text

- Why do you think Paul begins this letter by focusing on Christ instead of immediately addressing the issues in Colossae?
- Paul describes Jesus as both the **Creator** and the **Reconciler**. Why are both truths essential to understanding who He is?
- What does it mean that Jesus is "the image of the invisible God"?
- Why is it important that Christ is both Head of creation and Head of the Church?

Apply the Text

- Which description of Jesus most encourages or challenges you today?
- What competes with Christ for first place in your life?
- How would your daily decisions change if Christ truly remained at the center of everything?
- Paul begins with Christ before giving commands. Why is that order important for spiritual growth?

Pray Together

Spend time praising Jesus before presenting requests.

Using Colossians 1 as your guide, thank Him for being:

- The image of the invisible God.
- The Creator and Sustainer of all things.
- The Head of the Church.
- The One who reconciles sinners through the cross.

Then pray for one another, asking God to help each person keep Christ at the center of every area of life.

Live It Out

As you leave today, continue asking:

"Who is Jesus?"

This week, intentionally look for opportunities to pause and behold Christ through His Word. Before rushing to application, spend time simply worshiping Him for who He is.

Consider memorizing **Colossians 1:15** this week:

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."

Leader's Note

Throughout the discussion, gently guide the conversation back to the text whenever it begins drifting toward opinions or personal preferences. The goal is not to answer every question but to help the group see Jesus more clearly. Allow moments of silence, encourage participation from everyone, and remind the group that spiritual transformation begins not by trying harder, but by beholding Christ together.

ROOTED IN CHRIST
Week 2 Group Discussion Guide
Formed in Christ: Colossians 2:6–15

Purpose: As we continue through Colossians, Paul shifts from revealing who Christ is to inviting believers to walk faithfully with Him. Spiritual maturity is not achieved through self-effort or religious performance, but through a life that remains rooted, built up, and established in Christ. Tonight, we'll explore what it means to continue growing in Him.

Opening Conversation

Take a few moments to reconnect before opening God's Word.

- Where have you experienced God's faithfulness this week?
- As you've continued reading Colossians, what has encouraged or challenged you most?
- How can our group be praying for you tonight?

Read Together

Read **Colossians 2:6–15** aloud together.

Invite several people to participate in the reading.

When the reading is finished, spend **one minute in silence**, allowing everyone to reflect on what they have heard before beginning the discussion.

Observe the Text

- What images does Paul use to describe spiritual growth?
- Circle or list every action that God has taken on our behalf.
- What repeated words or ideas stand out to you?
- What contrasts does Paul make between life apart from Christ and life in Christ?

Understand the Text

- Why does Paul begin this section by saying, "Just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in Him"?
- What do the pictures of being **rooted**, **built up**, and **established** teach us about spiritual maturity?
- Paul warns against being taken captive by philosophy and empty deception. What kinds of things compete for Christ's place in our lives today?
- Why is it significant that "the fullness of deity dwells bodily" in Christ?
- What does Paul's description of the cross reveal about what Christ has already accomplished for us?

Apply the Text

- Which image of spiritual growth (walking, rooted, built up, established) best describes where you are right now?
- What "empty substitutes" tend to distract you from simply abiding in Christ?
- Where do you find yourself striving instead of trusting?
- How might your daily rhythms change if you truly believed that Christ is sufficient?

Pray Together

Spend time thanking God for what He has already accomplished through Christ.

Praise Him because:

- Christ has made us alive.
- Christ has forgiven our sins.
- Christ has canceled our debt.
- Christ has disarmed the powers of darkness.
- Christ is sufficient.

Then pray for one another, asking God to deepen your roots in Christ and continue His transforming work in each life.

Live It Out

As you leave today, continue asking:

"How is Christ forming me today?"

This week, pay attention to the voices that compete for your attention and affection. Whenever you notice yourself looking elsewhere for peace, purpose, or identity, pause and remember that your fullness is found in Christ alone.

Consider memorizing **Colossians 2:6–7** this week:

"So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in Him, being rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude."

Leader's Note

As the discussion unfolds, resist the temptation to let the conversation become centered on spiritual disciplines or religious performance. Those things are important, but they are not Paul's emphasis. Keep bringing the group back to the central truth of this passage: spiritual maturity grows from abiding in Christ, not striving apart from Him. Encourage honest conversation, celebrate evidence of God's work, and remind the group that healthy roots grow slowly but steadily as we remain connected to Jesus.

ROOTED IN CHRIST
Week 3 Group Discussion Guide
Putting Off the Old, Putting On the New: Colossians 3:1–17

Purpose: Because we have been raised with Christ, we are invited to live differently. Paul reminds us that the Christian life is not about earning a new identity—it is about living from the identity we have already received in Christ. Tonight, we'll explore how the Gospel transforms not only what we believe, but who we are becoming.

Opening Conversation

Take a few moments to reconnect before opening God's Word.

- Where have you seen God working in your life this week?
- Has there been an opportunity recently where following Jesus changed the way you responded to a situation?
- How can our group be praying for you tonight?

Read Together

Read **Colossians 3:1–17** aloud together.

Invite several people to participate in the reading.

When the reading is finished, spend **one minute in silence**, allowing everyone to reflect on what they have heard before beginning the discussion.

Observe the Text

- What commands are repeated throughout this passage?
- What words or phrases describe your identity in Christ?
- Make two lists:
 - What are believers called to put off?
 - What are believers called to put on?
- What role does Christ play throughout the entire passage?

Understand the Text

- Why does Paul begin by reminding believers that they have been raised with Christ before giving practical commands?
- What do you think it means to "set your minds on things above"?
- Why is putting off the old self only part of the process? Why must we also put on the new?
- Paul ends this section by saying, "Whatever you do...do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus." How does that statement summarize the entire passage?

Apply the Text

- Which characteristic of the old self do you find most challenging to surrender?
- Which quality of the new self do you most desire Christ to cultivate in your life?
- How does remembering your identity in Christ change the way you approach personal growth?
- What is one practical step of obedience God may be inviting you to take this week?

Pray Together

Spend time thanking God for the new life He has given through Christ.

Praise Him because:

- We have been raised with Christ.
- Our lives are hidden with Christ.
- We are God's chosen people.
- We are holy and dearly loved.
- Christ is making us new.

Then pray for one another, asking the Holy Spirit to continue shaping each heart into the likeness of Christ and giving strength to live out this new identity each day.

Live It Out

As you leave today, continue asking:

"What is Christ inviting me to put off, and what is He inviting me to put on?"

Rather than focusing only on changing behavior, ask God to shape your heart. As He transforms your heart, your words, attitudes, and actions will begin reflecting His character more naturally.

Consider memorizing **Colossians 3:12–14** this week:

"Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another... Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

Leader's Note

As the discussion unfolds, keep bringing the group back to identity. It is easy for conversations around this passage to become centered on behavior or personal failures. Paul begins somewhere different: **"You have been raised with Christ."** Encourage the group to see obedience not as a way to earn God's love, but as the natural response to the new life they have already received in Christ. Celebrate growth, extend grace, and remind one another that transformation is the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.

ROOTED IN CHRIST
Week 4 Group Discussion Guide
Christ in Our Relationships: Colossians 3:18–4:18

Purpose: Following Jesus transforms every relationship we have. As Christ becomes the center of our lives, His love begins shaping our homes, our workplaces, our conversations, and our witness. Paul concludes his letter by reminding us that the Gospel is not simply believed—it is lived out through ordinary people whose lives have been changed by Christ. Tonight, we'll explore what it looks like to faithfully represent Jesus in our everyday relationships.

Opening Conversation

Take a few moments to reconnect before opening God's Word.

- Where have you seen Christ at work in someone's life this week?
- Has someone encouraged or strengthened your faith recently?
- How can our group be praying for you tonight?

Read Together

Read **Colossians 3:18–4:18** aloud together.

Invite several people to participate in the reading.

When the reading is finished, spend **one minute in silence**, allowing everyone to reflect on what they have heard before beginning the discussion.

Observe the Text

- What relationships does Paul address throughout this passage?
- What repeated attitudes or actions does Paul encourage?
- What instructions does Paul give about prayer?
- As Paul closes the letter, how does he describe the people he mentions?
- What words or phrases are repeated throughout the chapter?

Understand the Text

- What do these instructions teach us about Christ's desire for our relationships?
- Why do you think Paul moves from the home, to work, to prayer, to our witness?
- What does it mean for your speech to always be "gracious, seasoned with salt"?
- Why do you think Paul chose to end this letter by naming faithful people rather than summarizing his teaching one more time?
- Looking at the people Paul mentions, what qualities seem to matter most in the Kingdom of God?

Apply the Text

- Which relationship in your life currently needs the greatest measure of Christ's grace?
- Where is God inviting you to become more intentional in prayer?
- How can your words better reflect the character of Jesus this week?
- Which description from the people in Colossians 4 would you hope others might one day use to describe your life?
- Who is God inviting you to encourage, disciple, or simply walk alongside in this season?

Pray Together

Spend time thanking God for the people He has placed in your life.

Praise Him because:

- Christ is transforming His people.
- Christ builds His Church through ordinary disciples.
- Christ opens doors for the Gospel.
- Christ gives grace for every relationship.
- Christ remains faithful to His Church.

Then pray for one another, asking God to help each person faithfully represent Christ in their homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and everyday conversations.

Take time to pray by name for people who do not yet know Christ and for opportunities to share His love with them.

Live It Out

As you leave today, continue asking:

"How can Christ be seen more clearly through my relationships today?"

This week, intentionally look for opportunities to encourage someone, extend forgiveness, speak graciously, pray faithfully, and represent Jesus well. Remember that some of the greatest Kingdom impact happens through ordinary acts of faithfulness.

Consider memorizing **Colossians 4:2–6** this week:

"Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word... Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person."

Leader's Note

Throughout this discussion, encourage the group to see that Paul's final greetings are not simply a list of names—they are a picture of the Gospel at work. Tychicus, Onesimus, Epaphras, Luke, Nympha, and the others remind us that God delights in working through ordinary people who faithfully follow Christ. Help the group see that discipleship is not measured by prominence or platform, but by faithfulness. As Christ transforms our hearts, He naturally begins transforming our relationships, our witness, and the communities where He has placed us.