

- SEPTEMBER 5 -
INTRODUCING COLOSSIANS

Small groups at Faith Fellowship are designed to provide the context and resources to help every person at Faith Fellowship take their next step as disciples of Jesus, even if their first step is their next step. Consider these questions and ideas to help you take your next step as a disciple.

Interact with the Passage

Read the entire book of Colossians this week using your ESV Scripture Journal. Consider reading and meditating on one section of the book per day by using the H.E.A.R. method. Engaging the text in this way will help you better understand and discuss the Scripture with your small group.

- **Highlight:** Read and observe everything in the passage.
- **Explain:** Based on your reading, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply:** Understand how the meaning of the passage affects your life.
- **Respond in Prayer:** Pray God's word back to him, asking to believe, share, and put the Bible into practice in your life and relationships.

Feel free to interact with the Scripture at your own pace throughout the week. Remember to interact with the Scripture and think through the discussion questions before you're small group meets. In small groups, we'll discuss what we learned from the Scripture the previous week as well as our answers to the discussion questions together.

Open It Up

- Generally speaking, what do you expect from studying the Bible? What do you want from this study of Colossians?
- What role has Colossians played in the shaping of your faith up to this point (that you are aware of)?
- What do you know about Paul coming into this study? What is the significance of him being an "Apostle"?

Discussion Questions

- Read the book of Colossians this week. Consider reading a chapter per day. What stood out to you in your interactions with reading Scripture this week?
- Listen to the book of Colossians on the CD in your Faith at Home envelope. Consider listening in the car on your way to work or appointments. What stood out to you in your interactions with listening Scripture this week?

- Watch the Colossians Overview from The Bible Project at faithfellowshipfortbend.com/colossians. What stood out to you from this video?
- Read Colossians 1:15-20. One of the major themes in the book is the supremacy of Jesus. In fact, these verses are actually a hymn the early church sang. Your Bible translations might even format this part of the text differently, like a poem or the lyrics to a song. The section begins by saying Jesus is the image of the invisible God. How did Jesus display the character and nature of God while He was on earth? (*Hint: Consider the article on the Supremacy of Christ on page 10 of this Disciple Guide*).
- When “theological” debates begin, how do you feel? Why do you think it is valuable to think through such things? What are some best practices or even “guardrails” that are important to remember when discussing such things?
- Read Colossians 1:24-2:5. How could Paul’s perspective shape the way you view your present circumstances? What could be different about us and the way we perceive the situations we’re in if we remembered Jesus’s victory on the cross?
- Read Colossians 3:1-14. What efforts have you made to grow spiritually in the past? What seems to have worked? What has not worked? (*Hint: Consider the article on Mortification and Vivification on page 13 of this Disciple Guide*).

Next Steps for the Week

- **Home:** At home or in the car this week, choose a praise song that exalts Jesus. Listen to that song to remind you of His supremacy over all things. For bonus points, sing it with your kids or grandkids really loud!
- **Hospitality:** Send a thank you text, note, or email to a neighbor this week. In light of what you have learned from this overview of Colossians, tell them how you are praying for them this week.
- **Hammers:** Ask God to transform the way you think about Him. Pray the truth that Christ is in you would settle into your heart and mind this week.