

- SEPTEMBER 12 -
COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

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 Colossians 1:1-14 this week by using the H.E.A.R. method in your ESV Scripture Journals. 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

- Think about a time when you were less mature than you are now—maybe a story from your childhood, school days, or first day at a job. What did you do or say that showed your immaturity? As we grow in Christ, our habits, attitudes, and words change. We become more and more like Jesus the longer we follow Him. As we're going to discover in this study on Colossians, a mature faith begins with full submission to the supremacy of Jesus.

Discussion Questions

- What stood out to you in your interactions with Colossians 1:1-14 this week?
- Paul wrote Colossians from prison alongside Timothy. He penned the letter to correct some wrong theology circulating in the church in Colossae by emphasizing the supremacy of Jesus. What do you think of when you hear "the supremacy of Jesus"? How would you define supremacy?
- How would you describe a life fully submitted to the supremacy of Jesus? What would it look like? What's appealing to you most about that kind of life?

- Read Colossians 1:3-8. According to these verses, how did those in Colossae hear the gospel? Who shared it with them?
- What's interesting about Colossians is Paul didn't plant this church – Epaphras did. Paul writes to a church he's never met before, but still expresses deep care for them. What kinds of things does Paul point out about the church in these verses? How do you tend to express your love for God's people?
- Read Colossians 1:9-14. Paul mentions for the second time that he and Timothy pray for the church in Colossae. He specifically says they never stop praying for them. When has someone modeled this kind of prayer life for you?
- According to verse 9, living worthily begins with God filling us with His knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. To Paul, following God begins in the mind and heart, and then expresses itself through action. What has it looked like in your walk with Christ to grow in knowledge, wisdom, and understanding? How have you seen your mind mature?
- Consider verses 13-14. What does it mean to you that you've been rescued from the kingdom of darkness? How does that truth relate to living a life that's worthy of God?
- Living a life worthy of God is only possible through Jesus. He made a way for us to be reunited with God and gives us the Holy Spirit so we can grow in maturity. That's not to say we have to strive to be perfect in our own power. Rather, the Spirit fills us and gives us all we need to pursue maturity in Christ—all beginning with the knowledge of God. When did you first hear and understand the gospel message? Since then, how has the gospel helped you mature as a believer? How has the Spirit played a role in your maturity?

Faith at Home this Week

- **Home:** In your Faith at Home envelope, consider the first Idea Card and do the Lego Time activity with your kids, grandkids, nieces or nephews. Use a fun activity like building a Lego satellite to tell them about the supremacy of Christ and God's overview effect. Use phrases like, "*How big God is, how creative God is, how much must God love us, etc.*"
- **Hospitality:** As an expression of gratitude to God, choose one way to show someone God's love this week. Help your spouse with something on their to-do list, send a friend flowers, or mow the neighbor's lawn. As you do, pray for the person you're serving.
- **Hammers:** When you pray this week, thank God for delivering you from sin and death. Pray for His Spirit to show you what it means to live a life that reflects the salvation you've received as you study Colossians.