**HOME GROUP GUIDE**

**February 9, 2020**

**Colossians 1:1-14**

**Sermon Title: Becoming a Ready Bride**

**About this guide:**

This guide is provided to assist your home group in discussion and application of the most recent sermon. This guide provides direction for application-based discussion within a small group as well as discussion material. **Please know that the guide is not designed with the intent that every question be answered systematically**. Feel free to pick and choose the questions that fit your group and structure your time together using the guide to maximize your group’s benefit.

Notice organization of the guide: looking back, looking up and looking forward. “Looking back” is the time for the group to consider how the last week or two has gone, to share about struggles and victories. Consider choosing one or two items from this section to answer.

“Looking Up and Looking Forward” is a time to discuss the sermon and how the group might further apply the truth of God’s word, making specific plans individually and as a group to walk by faith in the week to come. This is also a time to encourage each other, minister to each other and pray for each other. Try to choose a couple elements from each section.

The guide also contains a family discipleship section with a few ideas on how to intentionally engage in following the Lord as a family.

**Looking back:**

* Share how you have been doing since you last met:
	+ What biblical truths have been shaping your life and heart over the last week or so?
	+ What has dominated your prayer life this week?
	+ What was a “win” in your life this last week (something that happened that resulted in thankfulness, a moment of spiritual growth or victory, an answered prayer, etc.)?
	+ What was the biggest challenge in your life this last week? Is there anything that you need to share with your home group in the form of confession?
* With whom were you able to begin to build a gospel bridge of conversation since the last time we met? With whom were you able to share the gospel message?
* How can the group help you in your life this next week?

**Looking Up and Looking Forward (Specific, Realistic, Measurable, Personal): Read Colossians 1:9-14**

1. In this passage, Paul is telling the church at Colossae that since the day he heard about their faith, he has not stopped praying for them.
2. What does this passage teach us about praying for others?
3. Do you regularly engage in set aside prayer time? If you are married, do you pray with your spouse on a regular basis? As a family? As a homegroup?
4. Look at verse 9-10 and consider what Paul is praying for the church at Colossae. What is it that he wants the church to grow in? Is this the type of prayer you engage in? If not, how is it different than how you currently pray?
5. This passage talks about being “filled with the knowledge of [God’s] will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding”.
6. When do you seek to know God’s will? How often do you pray to know or do God’s will? Do you pray to know God’s will for circumstances in your life, such as decisions that have to be made?
7. Can we know the will of God? If yes, how?
8. How have you seen your understanding of God’s will change when you are walking closely with Him and obeying what you already know to do?
9. What does knowing the will of God lead us to? Look carefully at the structure of vs. 9-10.
10. Paul had never visited the church at Colossae and yet through the example of Epaphras, the people of Colossae heard the Gospel, a church was formed, and they learned what it meant to follow Christ. Verse 10 tells us that Paul is praying the church at Colossae will “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him.”
11. What does it mean to “walk worthy of the Lord” as the passage talks about?
12. As a homegroup, how are you encouraging each other to walk worthy of the Lord?
13. Throughout the month of January, we have talked a lot about leading someone who is close to you closer to Jesus. Have you identified a specific person(s) that you are intentionally investing in to help them grow closer to Jesus? If so, have you seen the person grow in their knowledge and understanding of God? How does it make you feel when you see someone close to you growing in their faith with God?

**Don’t forget:**

1. Pray for one another. Share one specific prayer request you need your group to pray each day until you meet again.
2. Pray for each of our campuses/venues: the Georgetown campus- Worship Center Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and Liberty Hill Campus at 11:00 a.m.
3. Pray that the group’s fellowship with God and one another would become enriched by the study of how God wants us to surrender to His will for our lives.

**Family Discipleship Ideas (Deuteronomy 6:5-7):**

 **When you wake**:

This week we will be exploring the will of God. Each day read a verse and discuss what that verse says about God’s will.

 - 1 Peter 2:15

 - Matthew 6:10

 - 2 Peter 3:9

 - 2 Tim 2:3-4

 - John 16:7

**Before you sleep**:

Explore these concepts with your kids as you tuck them in bed.

- God wants ALL people to be saved and know about Him. (1 Tim 2:3-4)

- God loves it (LOVES it) when you thank Him! (1 Thes 5:18)

- God already gave us everything we need to live a godly life that pleases Him. (2 Pet 1:3)

**When you sit down:**

Read Colossians 1:9-14. This is Paul’s prayer for the Colossians. Read this passage aloud. Take this time to simply pray this prayer as a family, carefully noting what Paul is praying for his brothers and sisters in Christ, and doing the same for yours.

**Along the way:**

Take the time as you are out and about to ask your family these questions to spark conversation:

- What decisions worry you right now?

- Do you think it’s true that our Father desires to give us good things?

- If there is one thing you could know for sure about what God wants for you, what would it be? (school, spouse, etc)

- Is there anything that the Bible tells us, for certain, is God’s will for our lives?