**HOME GROUP GUIDE**

**February 16, 2020**

**Colossians 1:13-20**

**Sermon Title: Becoming a Ready Bride Series**

**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 1:13-20**

Recap: Paul has introduced the idea that we can know the will of God and live a life fully pleasing to Him by following God’s will. But how can we accomplish this incredible task? Our only hope is to place our faith in the truly incomparable Jesus Christ, who has made peace with God by dying on the cross in our place as payment for our sins.

1. Paul’s discussion of the uniqueness of Christ begins with a description of how we have been rescued.
   1. What stories of rescue can you recall from the Old Testament? How do these stories point to the ultimate story of rescue in Jesus Christ?
   2. Have you or anyone in your group ever been rescued from a dangerous situation? What are the thoughts or emotions toward your rescuer? How does this inspire our feelings toward Jesus Christ, who has rescued us from all our sin? How does this change the way we worship? Or the way we live our lives?
   3. Think about the “someone” who is close to you that needs to be closer to Jesus. What is their greatest need? What does Colossians 1:14 say about our greatest need? How do we lovingly but intentionally help others see that their need for forgiveness?
2. In verses 15-18, Paul provides one of the most beautiful descriptions of Jesus Christ found in the Bible.
   1. Have your home group members close their eyes, and then have someone read these verses out loud. What would it have been like to hear this letter read out loud in church, like the church in Colossae? How do you think they would have responded to this incredible description of Jesus? How does it make you respond?
   2. Imagine that you are standing in the presence of Jesus right now. What would you like to ask him? What thoughts or emotions would you like to express towards him? Can you even speak at all? Do you think you would cry, or laugh? Do you think you would dance around, or fall on your face?
   3. Your home group may feel that it is appropriate to have a time of worship in response to reading this passage. Feel free to listen to or sing some worship songs together.
3. Paul indicates that Jesus Christ has equality with God Himself.
   1. Why is it important that we teach and believe that Jesus and God are equal? What are some alternative beliefs about the person of Jesus Christ? How can these alternatives be damaging to a proper understanding of the gospel?
   2. What does it mean that Jesus is all sufficient? How do some other religions or cults try to add to the work that Jesus accomplished on the cross for us? In what ways are we tempted to add our own good works to what Christ has already done for us? Have you ever heard the saying, “God helps those who help themselves”? How does this description of Jesus clarify the inaccuracy of that statement?
4. The last few verses provide a summary of why God sent His incredible, incomparable Son to the world He created.
   1. What does it mean that “all the fullness” of God dwells in Jesus Christ (v. 19)?
   2. How are people reconciled to God? How are we sharing this message to the people close to us?
   3. What does it mean to have peace with God? How would our lives, thoughts, attitudes be different if we didn’t have peace with God? Close your home group with a prayer of thanksgiving that we can have peace with God through the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.

**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., Gym Venue at 11:00 a.m. and Liberty Hill Campus at 11:00 a.m.
3. Continue to pray and fast for someone who is close to you who you can lead closer to Jesus.

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

**When you wake**:

Each morning read the verses and use the conversation starter below.

Read Colossians 1:13-20

Monday | V. 15-16 - When you hear “image of” does that make you think of another part of the Bible? (Parent Tip: check out Gen 1:26) What do you think it means to be the firstborn of all creation? (Parent Tip: Jesus was the firstborn from those who will with rise with Him when He returns.) The text says “all things were created though him and for him. Is there anything, that we can see or not see, that is not created through Christ?

Tuesday | V. 17 - Outside of our own problems and worries, what might Christ “hold together”?

Wednesday | V.18 - What is the head of the body? (1 Col 12:27 )

Thursday | V.19 - This verse says God was PLEASED to dwell in Jesus. Can you list some of the most memorable things Jesus did while on earth? Would you be pleased to do those things? Why do you think God was pleased?

Friday | V.20 - Grab Google and define “reconcile”. How does your definition relate to this passage?

**Before you sleep**:

As you tuck your children into bed at night (whether aged 2 or 22) remind them of one these simple truths each night:

• Everything in the universe was created by Christ and FOR Christ. Including you

• God was not only willing, but pleased to step out of eternity to us to dwell in Christ.

• Christ is the head of our church and every church. Our king is the King who created it all!

God’s children have offered blessings to their children since ancient times. As you say goodnight, grab your child’s hand and pray this short blessing. Don’t worry, you’ll have it memorized soon enough. But, in the meantime, there’s no shame in reading it from your phone or a printed copy. You’ll be surprised how much they love it, and how quickly they come to expect it. “The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

**When you sit down:**

This week we will focus solely on the verses of Col 1:15-20. These verses tell us who Christ is. Read Colossians 1:15-20 aloud to your family, then have another family member read it again.

• Grab a sheet of paper. As a family, create a list called “Who is Christ?” by listing every description of Him you find in this passage. Talk together about what it means for you that Jesus is , and does, all of these things.

**Along the way:**

As you drive to and from drop-offs and pick-ups, here are some conversation starters to engage your family:

• Can you try to image what it means that all things were made through Christ? Point out some real things as you drive. (leaves, people, the sky, etc.)

• What do you think it means that Christ is the image of the invisible God?