**HOME GROUP GUIDE**

**March 1, 2020**

**Colossians 1:24-29**

**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 1:24-29**

1. Paul makes it clear that he rejoices in suffering for the sake of the gospel and the church. Suffering is inevitable for everyone, but not all suffering produces rejoicing and rewards.

* Share a time you experienced suffering for something/someone that was worth it. What made this suffering worth it?
* Share about someone you have seen suffer for the sake of the gospel and the church. What motivated them? What changed in your life because of them?
* What motivates you more: trying to avoid suffering or enduring suffering for the sake of something that matters to you? What are some things you are willing to suffer for?
* When was the last time you can remember suffering for the sake of someone else growing closer to Jesus?
* Be honest with your home group-which path have you been choosing? Avoiding suffering at all costs or intentionally taking steps for others to walk with Christ in the midst of facing difficulties for it.

1. Colossians 1:27 talks about the mystery of God being “Christ in you”. Because we have seen the trail of awe in Colossians 1:14-22 we can get a glimpse into how miraculous this really is. This mystery is no longer meant to be kept, but to be proclaimed so others might know and experience the mystery of Christ in them.

* What does it practically mean for your daily life that Christ is in you?
* When was the last time you “proclaimed” the opportunity for Christ to be in someone else? What keeps you from proclaiming this mystery to others?
* How is your home group warning and teaching one another so that you might be a part of the ready bride for the return of Christ? Do you warn and teach each other? If not, what needs to change so that you are willing and ready to warn and teach each other with grace and truth so you can move toward Christ together?

1. In Colossians 1:24-29, 1 Peter 4:13-16, and Philippians 1:21-26 it is clear that Paul is speaking about running into the storm of suffering in order to serve the gospel and the church. He is willing to suffer so that others might know and walk with the Lord.

* Why is it so hard to run into the storm for the sake of others knowing Christ when we do it naturally in other arenas (parenting, grand parenting, jobs etc…)?
* What would it take for you to be willing to sacrifice and suffer for the sake of others knowing and walking with Christ?
* What is the next step you need to take into the storm so that the person you are praying for has an opportunity to hear about Jesus?
* Spend time praying for each other as you seek the difficult step of walking into the storm for the sake of someone else knowing and walking with 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. Pray for the people you are wanting to lead closer to Jesus.

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

**When you wake**:

Every morning this week read Colossians 1:24-29 together as a family. Pray and ask the Lord to help you see the opportunities to lead someone close to you closer to Jesus as a top priority for that day.

**Before you sleep**:

Each night talk about what happened when you sought to lead others close to you closer to Jesus. Talk about the challenges and wins. Be honest with the difficulties and the joys. Then pray for each other and for the people you encountered during the day.

**When you sit down:**

Get 1 strip of paper for each person in your family. On each strip write a different amount of money. Write a few very small and a couple fairly small and then one that is a pretty decent amount of money to your kids. (Be ready to pay out whatever number you write down!)

When you gather your family together ask each person to draw one slip of paper and to not show it to anybody. Then ask a question like this: Who would be willing to sweep the floor and take out the trash for the amount of money listed on their strip of paper. The hope is that most will say no, but at least one will say yes.

Then ask the people who said yes to reveal how much money. If they do the tasks then pay them the money.

Use this as an opportunity to talk about our willingness to suffer some for something of greater value. Share with your kids how helping people find God and follow Him has the greatest reward. Share how it will be difficult sometimes, but the Lord has promised He will be with us and for everyone who has believed and trusted in Jesus, that Jesus is in them.

**Along the way:**

Point out moments your family can help lead someone closer to Jesus even when it comes with a sacrifice. Help your kids find the rejoicing in sacrificing and suffering for others.