**HOME GROUP GUIDE**

**March 8, 2020**

**Colossians 2:1-7**

**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 2:1-7**

**Recap:** This week was unique in the way we walked through the passage with the Directional Team panel. But the questions that were asked are not unique to pastors. This week we want you to walk through the same questions our Directional Team answered using Colossians 2:1-7 as a catalyst for your conversation.

1. Like Paul expressed in Colossians 2:1, “For I want you to know how greatly I am struggling for you, for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me in person,” what represents your struggle or your passion for our FBG family?
2. Paul expresses his concern for the church to know Jesus Christ. Listen again, “I want their hearts to be encouraged and joined together in love, so that they may have all the riches of complete understanding and have the knowledge of God’s mystery—Christ. 3 In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” His concern is an overflow of his own understanding of Jesus. In that light, share a time when you experienced great assurance in your understanding of who Christ is. Also share about what you feel is the best part of knowing and following Jesus? What about your personal walk with Jesus Christ is something you want duplicated in others in our church family?
3. Paul’s ambition for the church is in part a concern for their protection. He says (verse 4), “I am saying this so that no one will deceive you with arguments that sound reasonable.” How do you carry out a role of protecting our church family?
4. In verse 5, Paul says, “For I may be absent in body, but I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see how well ordered you are and the strength of your faith in Christ.” What most excites you or creates rejoicing in you?
5. Considering the final verses of this passage, “So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, 7 being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude,” how do you focus on continuing in the faith, or being rooted and built up in Christ?
6. Paul expressed his heart and deep concern for the church. These are family words, encouraging words, meaningful words. What do each of you wish others in your group knew about you and your? How have you and your family been encouraged by your Home Group?

**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 our pastors and church leadership as they seek to lead us toward Christ.