

# READY. SET. GO.

 **COLOSSIANS 3** #fbgreadysetgo

## Introduction

Our FBG family has been taking a journey through the book of Colossians for most of 2020. During our journey, we want to make sure we are taking some time to be intentional with our family and the second half of Colossians 3 is a great place to lean in, especially because Paul addresses family life specifically!

For the next three weeks, we want to encourage you to spend some time taking your family a little deeper in this journey and this guide will give you some helps, tips, and activities to do just that!

## What is a win?

We hope you are using your Family-Crafted Discipleship Plan. If you are, pencil this into the “Spring” season. If you aren’t, we’d love to sit down with you one-on-one (or come to your small group) and help you create yours.

This guide is not meant to be a burden. It’s meant to help you disciple your family, so if you’ll try anything out of this guide . . . you’ll have a win!

## Additional thoughts for using this guide

- Sitting down for dinner as a family creates powerful moments. If you already have that rhythm, then you can use the guide during that time. If you don’t have this rhythm, look at your calendar and see if there are any opportunities this week to spend a few meals together as a family.
- The guide is written for “all ages.” You may have to make some of the questions simpler if you have young children in your home, or you may have to dig a little deeper if you have teenagers. Feel free to make these questions the starting point for you to develop for a custom fit to your family.
- If you have a baby or toddler at home, you can still use this guide. Obviously the discussions may not be a dialogue, but you can read Scripture over your children, sing over them, pray these concepts for them, etc.
- If you don’t have kids in your home, you can use this guide with your spouse, grandkids, adult children, or the people God has put in proximity to you to disciple. Adjust it as you see fit, but be intentional with the guide.

## What is “Ready, Set, Go”?

“Ready, Set, Go” is our theme for the next three weeks. Each week, we’re going to ask you to post a picture on social media with #fbgreadysetgo and we’re going to be pulling some of those pictures to celebrate together.

**Week 1 – “Ready”:** We’ll be talking about being a “ready bride” in Colossians 3:12-17. We’re going to want to see some family wedding pictures

**Week 2 – “Set”:** Colossians 3:18-21 will take us through some family dynamic as we set the standard for discipleship. We’re going to need some family re-enactment photos . . . those photos where you re-enact a pose that from a picture taken a long time ago!

**Week 3 – “Go”:** Colossians 3:22-41 gets us thinking about missional living as we go to the outposts God has called us to take the Gospel to. We’ll be looking for pictures of your family serving others.

Flip through the rest of the guide to acquaint yourself with the next three weeks. **READY. SET. GO. **

## The week of April 19, 2020 - Colossians 3:12-17

At the bottom of this page you'll see the "Our Plan" section. Pick from some of the options. You don't need to do them all. The Family-Crafted Discipleship Plan is about you making a plan that fits your family and that's what you'll do here. Memorize a verse together, do a small Bible study that is a bit more in-depth, discuss the verse each day, try a couple of the other ideas.



**Social Media:** Post a wedding photo from someone in your family with the hashtag #fbgreadysetgo and then find at least three other posts you can comment on

**Memory Verse:** *"Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."* Colossians 3:14 (CSB)

### Bible Study in Colossians 3:12-17:

Paul recognizes that anyone that has been called by and follows Jesus is "holy and dearly loved," and so he tells us how our hearts play out this new reality in our daily lives. He does this by reminding us that we are to "put on" (Greek word is "enduo" meaning literally to clothe oneself) compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. How can we do this though? It is hard to be compassionate or kind to someone who is not compassionate and kind to you. It's difficult to be humble or gentle when we prefer being right and will show this through strength. Now that we have been given the situation of staying home, having patience is very difficult.

Well, Paul explains further that we are also to bear with one another and forgive one another, but then he starts to explain how we do this. He says in verse 13 that we are to remember that God has already forgiven us! That is how we begin to forgive those who have wronged us or to bear with others that seem to be unbearable. We REMEMBER what God has already done for us! Again, we are "holy and dearly loved" by God and He has forgiven us of our sins and wrongdoings. He has done this through the perfection and love of Jesus Christ.

When we start with who God is and all He has done for us, we can start to "put on" the traits of Christ that Paul describes in this text. Love, as Paul places "above all" in verse 14, is why Jesus was willing to go to the cross and take the punishment of our sin in our place. Through the love of Christ, we are now adopted into God's family and we can be called "holy and dearly loved chosen ones." If you realize that you are truly loved by God, the Creator of the universe, it becomes easy to be loving, and thankful and our hearts can "sing to God with gratitude" as we glorify Him!

Remember when God called you into His family. Share with your family or friends about this time in your life and one area of your life that has changed as a result of Christ's love being poured out on you.

Have you "put on" or clothed yourself with love, compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience? Take some time to reflect on your last week and ask God to reveal where you might have fallen short. Ask Him to forgive you for your sins and to turn your heart towards love.

Paul has given us steps, as followers of Jesus, to put on these attributes of Christ in order to become a ready bride for Christ's return. As you reflect on your story of God's grace and movement in your life, as well as your need for Christ's forgiveness in your life, pray for God to give you a song of gratitude. Pray for your neighbors that they might see your gratitude through your words of love and kindness and that doors and hearts will open in your neighborhood and community!

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**One per day discussion questions:**

1. According to verse 12 what are being told to put on? Write the list in a column

Compassion

Kindness

Humility

Meekness (humility & gentleness NASB)

Patience

Compare that list to the thing we are told to put aside in v8. Write them in another column on the other side of the first column. Draw a line to the words you think are opposite of each other. One word may have more than one opposite meaning. Compare your list with someone else and discuss why you think they have opposite meanings.

Anger

Wrath (rage)

Malice

Slander

Obscene talk (abusive speech NASB)

2. From verse 8, what is something you need to get rid of? What can you replace it with instead from verse 12?
3. Read verse 14. How do these verses show us to put on love? Hint: Look back at verse 12 and then at verse 13.
4. To whom do you need to show love to today; siblings, parents, friends? Give a concrete example of how you will do this and share your answer?
5. Read verse 15. Read this verse again and remember the words "peace" and "thankfulness". Now read Philippians 4:6-7. What connection do peace and thankfulness have? How does thankfulness lead to peace? How does our thinking affect our peace? Read Phillipians 4:8. How will thinking on this list of things lead to peace? What are you anxious about and how can you focus on thankfulness in that situation?
6. Read verse 16. What does it mean to dwell? Google it if you need to. Read Psalm 119:105. Why is it important that the word of Christ dwell in us? What job does it do? How are you making sure the word of Christ is teaching and admonishing you?
7. Read verse 17. Name two things you would normally do in a week that will do in the name of the Lord with thanksgiving? These scriptures have a lot of commands in them in order to show love to others and help others, but how do these commands also help you?

**Other ideas:**

1. Translations - Read the verses in a different translation of the Bible each day
2. Replace one bad habit from v 8 with one good habit from v 12.
3. Go out of your way to show love to your sibling and parents this week.

**Our Plan** (See page 9 for more space):

## The week of April 26, 2020 - Colossians 3:18-21

At the bottom of this page you'll see the "Our Plan" section. Pick from some of the options. You don't need to do them all. The Family-Crafted Discipleship Plan is about you making a plan that fits your family and that's what you'll do here. Memorize a verse together, do a small Bible study that is a bit more in-depth, discuss the verse each day, try a couple of the other ideas.



**Social Media:** Post a family re-enactment photo with the hashtag **#fbgreaddysetgo** and then find at least three other posts you can comment on. A family re-enactment photo is actually two photos. The first is an older picture of your family and the second is a current picture of your family in the same poses.

**Memory Verse:** Pick one of the verses from Colossians 3:18-21 that fit you.

### Bible Study in Colossians 3:18-21

People who belong to Jesus should not be the same as everyone else. In his letter to the Colossians, Paul explains this. Then he goes on to explain that Christian families should not be the same as other families. In these verses, Paul gives instructions to each family member.

In these verses, it is easy to see that God values each person in a family. Since we want to be like Jesus, we are to value each person too. It is also easy to see that God is a God of order. He establishes an orderly plan for families because, as Creator, he knows what is best for us. Let's look at those instructions for family members.

*"Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."* There is nothing in this verse that should make us think women are not as important as men. Galatians 3:28 specifically lets us know that we are all equal in Jesus. The word "submit" here means to "line up under", with the idea of orderliness. The wife is equal to the husband, but she is asked to voluntarily line up under his leadership. Husbands and wives are equal but have different roles in a family.

*"Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them."* Now we see the husband's job. He is to love his wife with God's type of love. That type of love means he honors her, he values her, he respects her, he protects her. In Ephesians Paul even says that husbands should love their wives in the same way that Jesus loves the church. Jesus gave his life for the church, and husbands are to have that same unselfish love. "Do not be harsh" lets husbands know they should be careful how they treat their wives. They need to avoid using any hurtful words or actions with her.

*"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."* The reason it pleases the Lord for children to obey their parents is because parents are a gift God gives to care for and train children. "Obey" has the idea of hearing what parents say and then doing it. This is God's plan for training children.

*"Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged."* The final instruction is for fathers (and mothers). Even though children should obey, this lets us know that parents need to be careful with children. A child might become discouraged if their parents are constantly disapproving or pushing them. Parents who intentionally encourage their children help children keep open hearts.

#### To talk about:

- How do each one of these family jobs help us show our love for each other?
- How do each one of these family jobs help us show our love for Jesus?
- How does our family measure up to these instructions?
- What changes should we make so our family looks more like Paul's description of a Christian family?

**READY. SET. GO.**

### **One per day discussion questions**

1. The world might say that submitting to someone makes you inferior to that person. What does the Bible say about that? (suggestions: Galatians 3:28, 1 Peter 5:5)
2. We know from the Bible in Luke 12:48 (and Spider-Man's uncle) that "with great power, comes great responsibility." Our deeds cannot justify us, but they may reflect the condition of our heart in relation to the Lord. Why does a husband's attitude matter if he is doing what God asks him to do?
3. The CSB translation advises husbands "don't be bitter toward them" instead of "do not be harsh with them." Does that change the way you understand this warning?
4. Certain children strive to make their parents happy with their behavior. What harm is there in obeying parents to make them happy, as opposed to obeying them to please the Lord?
5. Can you think of a time when you obeyed your parents when you did not want to and the Lord used that for His good?
6. Can you think of an example of a good father provoking or exasperating his children? Not abusing or being evil, but being tempted to do this even if he is a godly man?
7. Why do you think Paul addressed fathers but not mothers in this passage? Think, research, and talk about how families operated differently in the first century compared to now.

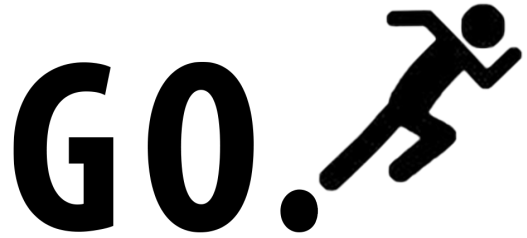
### **Other ideas**

1. Translations - Read the verses in a different translation of the Bible each day
2. Snack Talk - Make a snack that has two parts, something like celery with peanut butter or chips and queso. Talk about how both parts are good on their own but great together. Talk about how you wouldn't put the peanut butter down then set the celery on top or try to hold the queso and pick up the chip with it. There's a reason why you eat it in a certain way that is more satisfying and effective. You could also incorporate something bitter on top to highlight how that ruins the whole thing - vs 3:19b.
3. Obedience Flower or Kite - Have kids create a craft to hang in their room or on the refrigerator to remember to obey their parents. Use either the kite template or flower template per kid. Boys may prefer the kite. Print on cardstock if you have it. Have the kids cut out all of the pieces. Then, have them glue the flower or kite to the stalk (string) then add the leaves (flags), gluing to the back of the stock. Let them color. The templates are included below on Pages 10-11.
4. Come up with a list of ways they are struggling in the area of obedience and ways you're nailing it. Ask for forgiveness where needed.

**Our Plan** (See page 9 for more space):

## The week of May 3, 2020 - Colossians 3:22 - 4:1

At the bottom of this page you'll see the "Our Plan" section. Pick from some of the options. You don't need to do them all. The Family-Crafted Discipleship Plan is about you making a plan that fits your family and that's what you'll do here. Memorize a verse together, do a small Bible study that is a bit more in-depth, discuss the verse each day, try a couple of the other ideas.



**Social Media:** Post a photo of your family serving with the hashtag #fbgreaddysetgo and then find at least three other posts you can comment on.

**Memory Verse:** *"Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ."* - Colossians 3:23-24 (CSB)

### Bible Study in Colossians 3:22 - 4:1:

When we read this passage one of the first things that captures our attention is the word "slaves." Sometimes the Bible is descriptive rather than prescriptive. Paul is addressing the current way of life for the first century believer and many of them were a product of their culture as slaves. Paul isn't endorsing slavery, but rather teaching how to live for Jesus within a broken world.

Paul gives us very practical advice into how we are to work when we have authorities (good or bad ones) placed over us.

Get a sheet of paper and make two columns. Title one column "Positive" and one column "Negative." As a family, work through this text: "Don't work only while being watched, as people-pleasers, but work wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people," Put each phrase in the appropriate column and then write a corresponding opposite for the other column. See the example below

#### Positive

Work hard when no one is around

#### Negative

Work only when people are watching

Whether we are working for an employer or our job is going to school, we are looking for a reward. Our base "reward" is our pay or good grades. If we work hard enough those things will increase. We use pay to purchase things are valuable to us, but verse 24 says we work for something entirely different.

What are we working for? What does that mean? Why would we want it?

Read verse 25. Have you ever felt like someone got away with doing wrong? If so, how did that make you feel? What happens if you do wrong? What are some ways the enemy tempts you to do wrong at work or at school?

Read Colossians 4:1 and Matthew 7:12. How do these two verses work together?

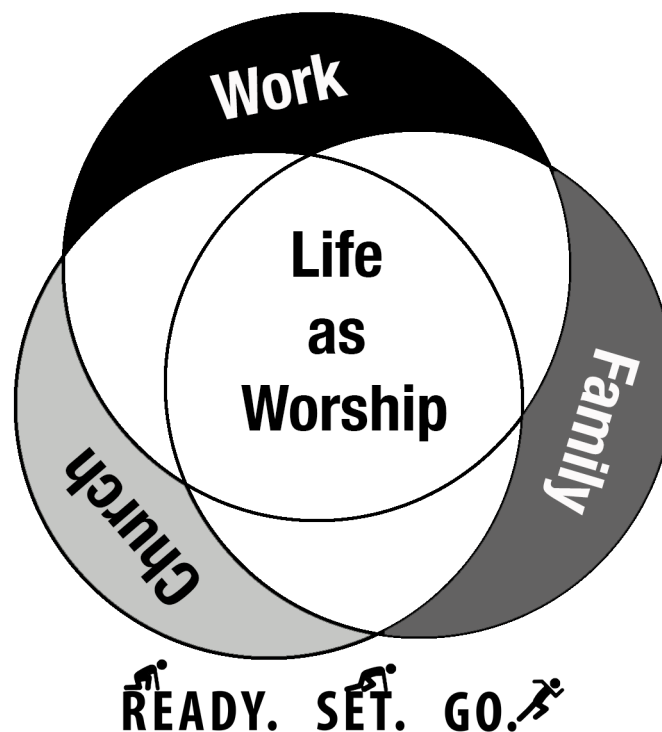
All of us have authority given to us in one way or another. Adults have authority in the workplace and at home. Teenagers have authority in leadership roles. Kids may have pets to take care of and they have authority in that area. How does your response to authority and how you wield it develop character?

Kevin talked about the reasons that God has given us work? What stood out the most to you?

Close out your Bible study time praying for your attitude at work/school and your influence as a leader at both of those places.

### One per day discussion questions:

1. Do you have someone who is your “master” (boss, teacher, elder, parent, chairperson, etc) that you find it hard to obey? Does it help to think that by obeying them cheerfully (when no one is looking and without grumbling to yourself), you are glorifying God and obeying Him? (Luke 6:32-36)
2. Can you honestly say that you fear the Lord’s opinion more than you fear people’s opinions? If not, what practical things can you do to address this condition? Think of a specific situation and what would change if you acted to please God and not people. *“Our work should point men to our Father, not us. Any time we attempt to rob God of his glory, we consequently rob ourselves of joy because we make ourselves slaves to the opinion of men.”* - Phillip Holmes, [desiringgod.org](http://desiringgod.org)
3. *“Sincerity of heart.” “Work heartily.”* Some people do not struggle with working hard but tend to zone out and just plug away. What are some ways you can approach your work with God-fearing eyes and not mindlessly (and heartlessly) check off boxes?
4. You don’t do good work to please God; rather, because God is pleased with you (thanks to Jesus’ work on the cross), you do good work. Think of a princess. Does she perform her royal duties to try to become a member of the royal family OR as a result of her position? What privileges/resources would she have that would cause the kingdom to hold her to a different standard and expect a good product? If she did not show up or did a bad job, would her loving family reject her and kick her out of the family? If they didn’t, would she still feel sad not to have done her best for her family? Think about her interactions with the kingdom’s poor, her siblings, her children, etc. as a metaphor for our status as an heir of Christ.
5. Make a list of your privileges and your duties as an heir of Christ. How are these different?
6. It is common in our culture for people to talk about karma or “what goes around, comes around.” Brainstorm ways to plant seeds of the gospel (without being a weirdo) when you hear this in conversations with your peers.
7. Look at the picture below. How do all three of these weeks work together?



**Other ideas:**

1. Translations - Read the verses in a different translation of the Bible each day
2. Young kids, read or watch video of The Tortoise and the Hare (<https://youtu.be/MeZe2qPLPh0>)
3. Take a walk as a family in the park or around the square and pick up trash as you go.
4. Anonymously give your neighbors a gift box. Could include a gift card and a note from each family member with a complement or note of appreciation.
5. Bring your neighbors trash cans back from the street without them knowing (only after the trash has been collected).
6. Depending on quarantine - prepare a meal or baked goods for a neighbor and invite over for fellowship or deliver to them.
7. Do lawn work (mow, trim bushes, pull weeds, gift potted plant) for a neighbor.

**Our Plan** (*See page 9 for more space*):



## Additional “Our Plan” Page

Our Plan - “Ready”

Our Plan - “Set”

Our Plan - “Go”

# FLOWER TEMPLATE

