**Overview of the Study:**

This Bible study is a six-week focus on the book of Colossians. The outline provided is not all encompassing but is a good place for servant leaders to begin their preparation for their individual Life Groups. **We strongly encourage you to tailor each study to your specific Life Group.**

In this study on the book of Colossians, we will focus on main themes that arise throughout the book including the supremacy of Christ and what the Christian life is really like.

**Outline Summary**

Week One: Introduction to Colossians

Week Two: Colossians 1:1-14

Week Three: Colossians 1:15-23

Week Four: Colossians 1:24-2:23

Week Five: Colossians 3:1-17

Week Six: Colossians 3:18-4:18

**Week One: Introduction to Colossians**

1. **Read Colossians out loud.**
	1. As we read Colossians, be thinking of the questions who, what, where, when, why.
2. **Who wrote it?**
	1. Vs. 1:1, 4:18: Paul
3. **Who is it written to?**
	1. Vs. 1:2: Church of Colossae
4. **What themes do you notice?**
	1. Supremacy of Christ
	2. How to live the Christian life
	3. What we have in Christ
5. **Because of these themes, what do you think might have been some problems in the church?**
	1. Supremacy of Christ questioned/threatened
	2. Questions about what Christian life is really like
6. **Do you think Paul knew them personally?**
	1. Vs. 1:4, 2:1: Paul knew Epaphras, but he may have been the only one Paul knew.
	2. Paul’s 3-year ministry in Ephesus (Acts 20:31, 19:10) is probably where he met Epaphras or someone else who worked with Epaphras heard Paul, and then started the church in Colossae.
7. **When was it written?**
	1. From vs. 4:18: Paul is in chains, most likely in Rome, so we can begin to get estimated time period from that (A.D. 62).
8. **Read 1:1-14 for next week.**

**Week Two: Colossians 1:1-14**

**Opening Questions:**

1. What has God been saying to you this week?

**Read Colossians 1:1-14.**

**Text Questions:** *Please write your own text questions as well (in order to shape this study according to the needs of your specific group)!*

Read vs. 1-2:

1. How does Paul see them?

Read vs. 3-8:

1. What do you think are important characteristics of a healthy church?
	1. Faith in Christ: When you say you believe in Jesus Christ, what does that mean to you?
	2. Love for each other: What message do we send to non-Christians when we love each other? What message do we send to God?
	3. Hope in heaven: Why is it crucial to have hope in heaven?
	4. Fruit bearing: What kind of fruit?
2. What does it mean to love in the Spirit?

Read vs. 9-14:

1. How can we be purposeful in growing in the knowledge of God?

**Application Questions:**

1. What aspects of this prayer (vs 9-14) do you want to grow in personally?
	1. Where are you at?
	2. Where would you like to grow? Such as in knowledge of God’s will, spiritual wisdom and understanding, living a worthy life and pleasing God, bearing fruit/growing, being strengthened with all power/spiritual warfare, revelation of God’s redemption/mercy, forgiveness.

**Memory Verse:**

Psalm 33:18, Psalm 42:5-6

**Week Three: Colossians 1:15-23**

**Opening Questions:**

1. What is a favorite memory from childhood?
2. Do you enjoy throwing parties for people?

**Read Colossians 1:15-23.**

**Text Questions:** *Please write your own text questions as well (in order to shape this study according to the needs of your specific group)!*

Read vs. 15-20:

1. What aspects describing Christ do you see here?
2. How does Christ reflect God’s image?
3. How does Christ reflect God’s purpose?

Read vs. 21-23:

1. According to these verses, what was our relationship to God like before salvation and then after salvation?
2. According to vs. 23, what are these promises dependent on?
3. How do we continue in the faith and not be moved from the hope of the Gospel? What are some practical everyday things we can do?
4. What is a way you’ve changed since you became a Christian? If you’ve been a Christian a long time, how has God helped you grow and endure in your faith? How does the truth of our state before and after salvation impact you to make Christ known to those seeking?

**Application:**

1. Have each person share someone that they’re praying for to come to Christ.
2. Look for opportunities to make Christ known this week—we’ll talk about it next week.

**Memory Verse:**

Colossians 1:19-20

**Week Four: Colossians 1:24-2:23**

**Opening Questions:**

1. Did you have the opportunity this week to share Christ in some way? What was your experience like?

**Read Colossians 1:24-2:23.**

**Text Questions:** *Please write your own text questions as well (in order to shape this study according to the needs of your specific group)!*

Read vs. 27-28:

1. How are you making Christ known among the non-Christians? What do you want to change or improve?
2. How can you help other Christians become more mature, even if you aren’t in formal leadership?

Read Colossians 2:1-5:

1. What do you think Paul meant by struggling?
2. What was Paul’s passion/heart toward those young in faith? What should ours be?
3. What specifically did he hope for them?
4. Why is it important for you to know from vs. 3, that ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ?
5. Are you fighting against any “fine sounding arguments” against Christ right now?

Read vs. 6-8:

1. What are four images about continuing to live in Christ?
2. What are some of the deceptive philosophies, human traditions and principles of this world that have power to take people captive?
3. What is one philosophy, tradition, or principle that had you captive, but Jesus set you free from its power?

Read vs. 9-12:

1. What word theme do you notice in these verses?
2. What does it mean that in Christ all the fullness of the deity lives in bodily form?
3. What does it mean that you have been given fullness in Christ?
4. What does it mean to be buried with Him in baptism? And raised with Him through faith?

Read vs. 16-23

1. Why can’t rules restrain sensual indulgence?
2. How does building your life on the foundation of Jesus Christ bring afreedom and joy that no religious system could ever offer?

**Application Questions:**

1. What are some religious practices or traditions that can give people a false sense of security?
2. What is one area in your life where you would like God to transform your heart? It could be a sin issue, bad attitude, etc.
3. This week, encourage someone spiritually. We will spend time next week sharing about how this went.

**Memory Verses:**

Colossians 1:28-29, Colossians 2:9, Matthew 15:17-20

**Week Five: Colossians 3:1-17**

**Opening Questions:**

1. Did you have the opportunity this week to encourage someone spiritually in some way? How did it go?
2. Why do people often turn down the things that others offer them, even if they are things that they need?

**Read Colossians 3:1-17.**

**Text Questions:** *Please write your own text questions as well (in order to shape this study according to the needs of your specific group)!*

Read Colossians 3:1-4:

1. Since we have become Christians, having “been raised with Christ,” what are four changes that we are exhorted to make or have already been made according to these verses?
2. How does someone set their heart/mind on things above?

Read vs. 5-11:

1. What does the phrase “put to death” mean to you? What does it look like in your life?
2. How are we as believers to act? With what type of attitude and action?
3. What is the first type of sin Paul refers to and what is the second?
4. Why do you think Paul hit the sexual sin first and with such intensity?
5. Which of these sins are you most tempted to commit or are weakest in? How does it look or show up in your life?
6. What is one strategy you’ve found to strip away the power of these sins/temptations?

Read vs. 12-17:

1. What are the “garments” we’re told to put on?
2. What is one that you feel you have a hard time “wearing”?
3. Which of these things do you see as strengths in each other?

**Application Questions:**

1. Is there an area in your life where you have become comfortable in sin?
2. How can we help each other this week to say “no” to our sinful nature? I.e. what are some accountability procedures we can do to lift one another up?

**Creative Implementation for the week/Spiritual Exercise:**

We encourage you all to spend time each day over this next week praying for one another. If there is a specific area someone shared, pray for that. If not, just pray that they would continue to turn away from their sinful nature and be led by the Spirit.

**Memory Verse:**

Colossians 3:12-14

**Week Six: Colossians 3:18-4:18**

**Opening Question:**

1. How did the past week of praying for one another go for everyone?

**Read Colossians 3:18-4:18.**

**Text Questions:**

Read Colossians 3:18-21

1. Put in your own words or summarize Paul’s challenge to each family member.
2. How do you think a child’s embitterment happens? How can this be avoided?
3. What does submission look like to you? What are the blessings, or what have you seen the blessings be?

Read 3:22-4:1

1. What does Paul challenge for slaves? For masters? How does this impact us now?
2. What can you do to live out the principles for the workplace drawn from this passage?

Read vs. 2-4

1. What are some different kinds of prayer that Paul mentions in this passage?
2. Why should we be watchful and thankful?
3. What are other ways you can pray that aren’t mentioned here?
4. What are some strategies that help you pray or have a healthy prayer life?

Read vs. 5-6

1. What do you think Paul means by “make the most of every opportunity”?
2. What do you think it means to have conversations full of grace and seasoned with salt? (What is the purpose of salt in other contexts?)
3. What does it mean to you to know how to answer everyone?

**Application Questions:**

1. As you look over the study in Colossians, what was most impacting and insightful for you personally?
2. What are one or two points that you are going to apply to your life or have applied that will stick with you?

**Creative Implementation for the week/Spiritual Exercise:**

Re-read Colossians, but first ask God to show you areas in the letter that you need to be reminded of. Thank him for his word to us.

**Memory Verses:**

Colossians 3:23-24, Colossians 4:5-6