

GROUP LEADER GUIDE (Week: 11/14-11/20) – Colossians: “Christ is All”

Sermon Text: Colossians 1:15-23

BIG Idea: Jesus Christ is absolutely supreme and necessary in relation to all things. He is not only our Savior and Lord, but also the Creator and Sustainer of our lives.

Focus this week: Continue to focus on growing in prayer, depth, and vulnerability as a group.

Semester updates: The Fall semester of groups will be concluding at the end of the month with Worship and Prayer on November 28. Please invite all group members to attend worship and prayer then.

FELLOWSHIP TIME (15 minutes)

Be sure to plan out some way to implement casual fellowship time as people come to your group. After the fellowship time at the beginning of your meeting, have everyone find their seats and start off with an icebreaker. You can use one of the icebreakers from the leader resource page found here:

<https://lifewayresearch.com/2020/02/19/75-icebreaker-questions-for-church-small-groups/>

Pow’s and Wow’s (a.k.a. “High’s” and “Low’s”): After you do the icebreaker, one thing you can do to start your group off each week is called “Pow’s and Wow’s”. Have each person go around and share a “pow” (a low moment from the past week) and a “wow” (a high point moment from the last week). This can also be a great way to learn how you can pray for one another.

DISCUSSION (30 minutes)

Start discussion by saying, “This past Sunday we learned about how Jesus Christ is absolutely supreme and necessary in relation to all things. We looked at one of the most important passages in the entire New Testament on the preeminence of Jesus Christ over all things. Jesus is not just our Savior and Lord, but also the Creator and Sustainer of our lives.”

1. Was there anything from the sermon this past Sunday that stood out to you in a way that was encouraging, challenging, confusing, or helpful?

This first question, as usual is for the purpose of simply getting people to talk about the sermon. View it as a general warmup up for the night.

2. The title of the sermon was, “Christ is All.” An explanation was given for what this means, but after listening to the sermon, how do you personally understand it? What do you think is the relevance of that truth for your everyday life?

The explanation in the sermon was, “Jesus Christ is absolutely supreme and necessary in relation to all things.” Here is what was also said in the sermon about the meaning of the title: “By “absolute” I mean without any qualification, restriction, or limitation. And by supreme I mean superior and ultimate in rank. So, if Jesus is absolutely supreme, then that means there are no exceptions or rivals to his greatness. And when I say “necessary” I mean that there is nothing in this world that can say it has no need of Jesus, because he is necessary for everything. And he is absolutely supreme and necessary in relation to all things. So, when you compare Jesus to anything, there is zero competition, and there is nothing that is without need or dependence upon Jesus.

3. It is right to emphasize that Jesus is our personal Savior and the Lord of our life. Why do you think it is important to remember that he is also the Creator and Sustainer of all things past, present, and future?

Emphasizing ONLY the savior and lord aspect can keep us from seeing Christ for as big and majestic as he really is. Some people refer to this passage as the “Cosmic View of Christ.” He is a cosmic-sized Savior who is larger than than we could ever comprehend. This really helps us in worshipping Christ for his greatness and magnitude over all things.

4. Have someone read back through Colossians 1:15-20. Which of the 11 truths discussed last Sunday was most beneficial for you to understand and dwell on? Why?

This question is pretty open-ended is for the purpose of getting people to reflect on the ways that the passage personally impacted them in specific ways. Each of the truths is important for our lives but our lives need various truths in different seasons.

5. The central truth of the hymn in Colossians 1:15-20 was in the second half of verse 17: “and in him all things hold together.” Why might this central truth about Christ holding all of life together be relevant and helpful for you in your current season? Explain.

The purpose of this question is to get people to reflect on the relevance of the main point. Jesus holds everything together, including your entire life. We have all been through seasons where things feel like they are “falling apart”, but the one thing that can keep us encouraged and strengthened is knowing Christ holds us together.

6. Have someone read Hebrews 1:3 and Job 12:10. One of the phrases used in the sermon to explain these verses is that Christ is the “cosmic glue” holding everything together in the universe and in life. How do these two verses encourage or help you in your faith?

This question forces people to think through the practical implications and application of Christ upholding power of all things. These verses and the idea of “cosmic glue” can be a deep stabilizer and strengthener of your faith when things falter and fail in life.

PRAYER (20 minutes)

Prayer is the most important thing you can do for one another. Take some time to specifically pray for one another and for Church at Bergen. Give sufficient time to ask how one another are doing and how you can pray.