

# Series Overview and Guides

2019-2020 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 1

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2019

## Objective

*what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study*

We shape and refine each other in redeemed community.

### STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"Better an open reprimand than concealed love. The wounds of a friend are trustworthy, but the kisses of an enemy are excessive."

—Proverbs 27:5-6

"The new life Christians must 'put on' is one in which the Word of Christ dwells richly. Christ's words were recorded by Spirit-guided apostles. The words of the Bible, God's written Word, are to dwell in believers. That is, by study, meditation, and application of the Word, it becomes a permanent abiding part of one's life. When the words of Christ become part of a believer's nature, they spring forth naturally and daily in psalms (songs from the Book of Psalms), hymns (other songs of praise), and spiritual songs (as opposed to secular odes) with gratitude (in grace). Such joyful singing is not only to please oneself or others but is to be praise to God. Through this Spirit-filled kind of life, Christians can teach (instruct) and admonish (counsel) one another if it is done with all wisdom and not tactlessly."

—Norman Geisler. *Colossians*



**Frisco Bible Church**  
*a redeemed community*

## Premise

*why we are studying this*

We often think of Christian development in individual terms only. Certainly, there is a need for each person to grow in personal discipline. Yet God specifically calls us in fellowships – Christian communities so interconnected that He refers to us as "the body of Christ." Thus, we must develop in redeemed community, following God's plan for sanctification with our brethren.

### STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all."

—1 Thessalonians 5:14 ESV

"When our girls were young, we bought a lapidary machine, a device used to polish stones. We filled the cylinder with jagged rocks, sand and water, then set the machine on the front porch and turned it on. Slowly but steadily, the motor rotated the cylinder over and over and over and over. A few weeks later we opened the case and marveled at the transformation. The rough, jagged edges of the rocks had been worn down, leaving beautiful, polished stones. We all have rough edges and need some burrs knocked off...[something] the Apostle Paul explains in Colossians 3:16."

—Dan Bolin

*Refueling in Flight, No.35*

## Theme

*what the study is about*

Jesus calls His followers to an ethic that exceeds anything ever imagined in human history.

### STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

Paul shows us exactly how we become smooth and useful for God's work via three big ideas in Colossians 3:16:

- Read, study, apply, and memorize Scripture.
- Nurture significant relationships in the fellowship.
- Worship God with gratitude.

"Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

—Colossians 3:16

"This life is not godliness, but growth in godliness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest, but exercise. We are not now what we shall be, but we are on the way; the process is not yet finished, but it has begun; this is not the goal, but it is the road; at present all does not gleam and glitter, but everything is being purified."

—Martin Luther

*A Defense and Explanation of All Articles*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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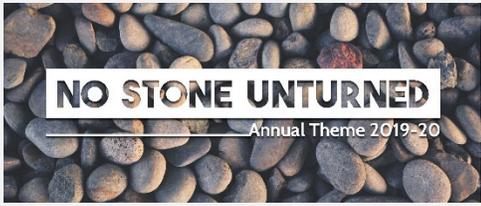
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SERIES 1 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:16 and selected Scriptures

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Like rocks in a swift stream, we should be rounded, smoothed, and polished by continual friction with our brethren. As the current plays over the rocks and initiates their tumbling, so the Holy Spirit can flow over a believer's soul, moving him in the painful, beautiful sanctification process. Three blockades currently limit this maturation process for many Christians and churches: individualization /isolation, hyper-sensitivity, and groupthink. The answer to them is found in Colossians 3:16.

OBJECTIVE

We become smooth stones in God's service.

SMOOTH STONES

"The smooth stone flies faster and truer. It cuts through the atmosphere and stays on target. The smooth stone is useful for what God wants to do through David. Had David grabbed rough stones, he would be likely unknown to us, meriting in his death merely another notch on Goliath's belt."

—Wayne Braudrick

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we learn to live in redeemed community.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

## Session 1: Rock and Roll

1. Memorizing Scripture is a powerful tool for spiritual growth. Share a verse you have memorized that has been helpful to you. Explain how and why.
2. The annual theme of *No Stone Unturned* addresses the need for believers in the local church to help each other polish off the rough edges. What steps have you taken to allow yourself to be shaped by your study of the Word, participation in fellowship, and authentic worship?
3. Read Colossians 3:16, and Psalm 119:11. What has proven to be your most effective way of having God's Word "richly dwell in you"?
4. These "quick-checks" can produce great group discussion. Highlight several as a group or as a facilitator to include in your time together.

Tendencies to **over-individualize** our understanding of self:

- Do you feel disrespected when people misspell or mispronounce your name?
- Instead of seeing self as a steward of God's things, do you ever think of money as your property?
- Do you ignore or secretly change parts of the Bible you don't like?
- Do you ever feel really down on yourself, disbelieving God's love for you?
- Do you hate the idea that Jesus had to suffer for you, wishing you could be justified without His sacrifice?
- Have you ever left a fellowship because it didn't offer something you wanted?

Tendencies toward **hyper-sensitivity** among us:

- Have you ever set up some past pain as a hurdle for others to clear? That is, they must embrace your hurt without question, or you will reject them.
- Do you recoil when the church mentions money?
- Do you get angry or withdraw when confronted about sin?
- Do you ever post online about bad service or a perceived slight?
- When a Scripture passage is convicting, do you think more about how it applies to others instead of self?
- Have you ever left a fellowship because someone hurt your feelings?

Tendencies toward **groupthink**:

- Do you feel compelled to chime in and correct others when they are wrong?
- Would you be more concerned that your Christian child marry a fellow believer or that he/she wed someone of your social-political views?
- Do you see life through a particular racial lens and think that is good?
- Do you struggle to accept input from denominational, conservative or liberal Christians? (Depending on your own persuasion)
- Are you unthinking about Scripture, accepting whatever your favorite teacher says without examination for accuracy?
- Have you ever unfriended someone over politics?



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KEY IDEAS

THEME

Scripture must dwell richly in us as individuals and a group. If we are rich in Scripture, there will be health and depth in our community while individuals are shaped by God's Word. If we are poor in Scripture, then souls will remain less useful for God and the fellowship will not promote health.

OBJECTIVE

God's Word richly dwells in us.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

INSPIRED BY GOD

"All Scripture is divinely inspired (lit. God-breathed). This fact in itself should be adequate reason for proclaiming it. It does not merely contain the Word of God or become the Word of God under certain conditions. It is God's Word, the expression of His person (heart, mind, will, etc.)."

—Dr. Thomas Constable  
*Notes on 2 Timothy*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that the Word of God would dwell richly in us.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

## Session 2: Let Scripture Dwell Richly in You

1. Read Colossians 3:16.
  - What are we instructed to do regarding the Word of God?
  - What does the psalmist do to nourish his soul with God's Word? See Psalm 1:2
  - If a new believer asked you about meditating in a Biblical manner, what would you tell him or her?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 in the sidebar. If possible, read it in the New Living Translation (NLT) as well.
  - If we let God's Word richly dwell in us, what will it do for us?
3. In what ways do we allow distractions to crowd out our daily time in God's Word?
4. What, if any, tools or methods have you found useful in empowering and equipping you to consistently spend time in God's Word?
5. Read the following verses and choose one to memorize together.
  - Hebrews 4:12
  - 2 Timothy 1:12
  - Ephesians 6:10-12
  - Romans 5:8
  - Jeremiah 33:3
  - Philippians 4:6



SERIES 1 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



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SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:16 and selected Scriptures

KEY IDEAS

THEME

To live on target for God, we must become ever-more spiritually polished. Just as a smooth stone cuts through the atmosphere and flies true when launched from a sling, so we can knife through culture and achieve God's purposes. One of the most important means of "smoothing" is the friction experienced in Christian relationships.

OBJECTIVE

We wisely teach and admonish one another.

TRUE FELLOWSHIP

"Whether fellowship is perceived as participation or partnership, in either case it implies a responsibility to fulfill our function in the body. We usually don't think of fellowship in terms of fulfilling a responsibility, but that is because we have lost sight of the biblical meaning of fellowship. Fellowship is not just a social privilege to enjoy; it is more basically a responsibility to assume."

—Jerry Bridges  
*True Community: The Biblical Practice of Koinonia*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, for opportunities to fulfill the "one anothers" in true fellowship.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

## Session 3: Nurture Relationships in the Fellowship

1. Read Colossians 3:16.
  - Discuss what it means to teach and admonish one another.
  - What role does gratitude play in this interaction, or, for what are we expressing gratitude?
  - What is the role of wisdom?
  
2. Listed below are some Biblical admonitions for the interaction of community. Review this list and discuss how these attitudes and actions help us grow in Christlikeness.
  - Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
  - Be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50; 1 Thessalonians 5:13b)
  - Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
  - Assemble with one another (Hebrews 10:25)
  - Be hospitable to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
  - Edify one another (Romans 14:9, 15:2; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:29)
  - Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
  - Admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
  - Seek the best for one another (Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:15)
  - Bear with one another (Ephesians 4:2, 4:32; Colossians 3:13)
  - Do not lie to one another (Colossians 3:9)
  - Serve one another (Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 4:10)
  
3. 1 Corinthians 12 describes Christians as a body. Why is our interaction with one another vital for consistent Christian growth?
  
4. Review 1 Corinthians 8 and Romans 14.
  - How is personal humility the foundation for successful completion of the "one anothers"?
  - How can we avoid imposing standards that do not have a scriptural basis? Discuss some common pitfalls in this area.



SERIES 1 | SESSION 4

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:16 and selected Scriptures

KEY IDEAS

THEME

There is a reason Christians have always been known as a singing people. Worship is a critical part of how we are shaped, a regular expression of gratitude for the miracle of fellowship with God and His people. When we worship, we do more than engage vertically with God. We also grow horizontally in fellowship. Practically, loving God, walking in the light, worshipping in the assembly, and confessing sins defeat the fellowship killers that plague our lives.

OBJECTIVE

We love God, walk in His light, and confess sins.

GROWING IN FELLOWSHIP

If you are a perfectionist, you may have trouble with the ambiguities of [growing] in fellowship...I would encourage you to realize that God is not out to trip us up. He loves us and wants us to be in fellowship with Him.

I'd love to be perfect right now. I bet you would too. But that day is yet future (1 John 3:2). Until then, let's walk in fellowship, with God.

Bob Wilkin  
*The Power of Repentance*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we continue to grow in fellowship with God and each other.

## Session 4: Worship God with Gratitude

1. If you have been memorizing a new verse, quote it to the group you are studying with.
  - Why does Israel experience defeat at Ai after a great success at Jericho?
  - What are some reasons the church elders should exercise discipline when there is public sin in the congregation?
2. Read Joshua 7:10-12.
  - What are some ways a failure to gather together (isolation) inhibits Christian growth?
3. What are some ways a failure to gather together (isolation) inhibits Christian growth?
4. Read Hebrews 10:24,25. In this day and age, busyness is the norm. Why is it important for us to prioritize time for study, fellowship, and worship?
5. Read 1 John 1:7. How does "walking in the light" help keep Christians in fellowship with one another?

