

FOLLOWING JESUS: SUBVERTING THE

EMPIRE

STUDY GUIDE

Let Jesus Be Jesus

Colossians 1.24-2.5

Since this is still early in community groups forming, make sure there is time for folks to get to know each other. At the same time, don't leave it too unstructured, as this may make folks who don't anyone feel more out of place. Welcome everyone in, make them feel comfortable, and then transition into some introductions and explanation of what the group will be about.

WELCOME & SHARING

Share any announcements...

- New City Guys BarbeKubb @ Eli's, Sunday, October 2nd after church. BBQ & the viking game Kubb (pronounced Koob).
- Great Cincinnati Bus Tour Saturday, October 15th 8am-1p. Purchase tickets online.
- New City Women's Retreat, October 21st-22nd, register online BEFORE 9/25.

Introductions: Have everyone go around and introduce themselves, share their name and what they had for breakfast.

If you were a cartoon character who would you be and why?

STUDY/DISCUSSION

We are journeying through the Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossian church in September and October. This week we're studying Colossians 1:24-2.5.

Read: Colossians 1.24-2.5

1. How does Paul describe his ministry in this passages? What kinds of things does he do?
2. How does the church today do those same kinds of things?
3. What is the "mystery" that Paul is describing in 1:26-27? Why do you think he uses that word?

4. In 1:28, Paul describes his aim as "presenting everyone mature in Christ." What does Christian maturity look like? How can we help each other move toward maturity?
5. In 2:3 Paul explains that in Christ "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" and that they should not be "deluded... by plausible arguments" (2:4). He's concerned that the Colossians might look outside of Christ for fullness, wisdom and happiness. What things are you tempted to look to outside of Christ for fullness, wisdom and happiness?
6. What role does suffering play in the Christian life? See especially 1:24.
7. What is one thing you can apply this week?

NEIGHBORING EXPERIMENT OF THE MONTH: Try to meet one neighbor you don't know yet and learn something about them.

PRAYER

As you get to know each other as a group, it's good to keep the prayer time a little lighter and help set the tone of how you'd like the prayer time to be as everyone is just getting to know each other. You can close in prayer, ask a few folks to pray, or break into smaller groups. Try using "conversational prayer" where folks pray briefly in a sentence or two (not "prayer speeches"), with normal words (no thees and thous), and can pray more than once (no "one and done" rule). Basically, pray to God like you're talking with one another.

What should we pray about? The most natural thing is to ask for personal requests if folks are willing to share, though in these first few weeks, people may be somewhat hesitant. Instead, you can pray in response to the passage, or simply focus your prayers on the growth and development of your community group.