

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of October 1-7, 2023

“WALK IN CHRIST”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Share one thing you're genuinely thankful for today, no matter how big or small. It could be something that happened recently or a constant source of gratitude in your life.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Colossians 2:6-7.

1. Read Colossians 2:1-5. What do you see about the heart of Paul for the churches in these verses? What were his concerns? Why is unity important in the body of Christ?
2. Verse 6 contains the only New Testament occurrence of the exact phrase, “Christ Jesus the Lord.” The grammar of this verse tells us the “Lord” describes “Christ Jesus” so the passage means: “Christ Jesus, the One who is Lord.” What significance does this wording have for understanding what the Colossians have “received?”
3. Paul says that we “have been rooted.” This refers to a past action (have been) that has effects on the present. Another way to say that is that believers are in “a settled state of rootedness.” What does it mean to be rooted in Christ, and how does this grounding impact your daily life?
4. Abounding in thankfulness is a beautiful image of an *abundance of thankfulness* that cannot be contained but continues to flow and spill over everywhere. Is this your current experience as a Christian? The unfortunate reality is that many Christians lose this sense of overwhelming gratitude over the years. How can such thankfulness be recaptured again?

5. What could Paul be referring to when he says “established in the faith, just as you were taught”? How does this attention on teaching reflect the importance of sound doctrine for the Christian? How have you benefited from the teachings of your church?

6. NEXT STEPS

My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7 MSG)

- I will strive, by God's grace, to daily to live in Christ, allowing his teachings and the Holy Spirit to guide my thoughts, words, and actions.
- I will seek deeper spiritual roots by immersing myself in God's Word, praying consistently, and being part of a faith community.
- I will cultivate a heart of gratitude, recognizing God's work in my life and expressing thankfulness in my prayers and actions.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that you grow in your Christian faith, deeply rooted in Christ, and living a life that reflects Jesus' character.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

October 2	Colossians 2:1-7
October 3	Mark 10:13-16
October 4	Jeremiah 17:1-8
October 5	Isaiah 12
October 6	Ephesians 6:10-20
October 7	1 Corinthians 3:1-17
October 8	Psalms 61