

Colossians 1: Growth Group Guide

SCRIPTURE READING QUESTIONS

Before diving into the group discussion, consider these four questions as you read the text:

- **What does this passage say about God, who He is, and what He does (Father, Son, and Spirit)?**
- **What does this passage teach me about me?**
- **What comfort/challenge can I take away from this passage?**
- **How will I respond or live differently because of what I've read?**

PART 1: THE FOUNDATION

Loving God's People (The Community Lens) In Colossians 1, Paul celebrates the faith, love, and hope that bind believers together. Our "One New Family" identity is rooted in the gospel that has reached us and is bearing fruit across the entire world, uniting us as fellow servants and brothers and sisters in Christ.

- **Key Question:** "How are you pursuing authentic community with other believers right now?"
- **Key Question:** "What gets in the way of community with other believers?"

Looking to God's Word (The Truth Lens) This chapter presents a breathtaking view of our "Wealth in Christ" through the supreme identity of Jesus. He is the image of the invisible God, the creator of all things, and the head of the body, the church. We were once alienated, but now He has reconciled us through His physical body through death to present us holy and blameless.

- **Key Question:** "How is God's Word challenging you?"
- **Key Question:** "What can you do to prioritize God's Word?"

PART 2: THE WALK

Listening to God's Voice (The Prayer Lens) Paul prays constantly that believers be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Walking in the Spirit means being strengthened with all power to walk worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in all things, and bearing fruit in every good work.

- **Key Question:** "How is God directing you?"
- **Key Question:** "What do you need to quiet in your life to hear God better?"

Living Sent (The Mission Lens) Paul speaks of his calling to proclaim Christ, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom. Our "sending capacity over seating capacity" means laboring and striving with His energy to make known the mystery of the gospel—Christ in you, the hope of glory—in our everyday spaces.

- **Key Question:** "What everyday opportunity have you used to point someone to Jesus?"
- **Key Question:** "What opportunities did you miss to tell someone about Jesus?"

GROUP PRAYER & SUMMARY

- **Closing Thought:** Colossians 1 grounds our faith in the total supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ, who has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves.
- **Final Action:** Memorize or meditate on Colossians 1:13–14 this week, thanking God daily for transferring you out of darkness and into His kingdom of redemption and forgiveness.

PAGE 3: FACILITATOR CHEAT SHEET

The Structural Lens

Indicative vs. Imperative: The theological framework relies heavily on the profound **Indicative** of the Supremacy Hymn (v. 15–20) and the reality of our reconciliation (v. 21–22). The **Imperative** follows in verse 23: "if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith". Remind the group that our perseverance and fruitful living are not done to earn salvation, but are the natural outflow of holding fast to the supreme Christ.

Facilitation Tips

- **Navigating "Firstborn of All Creation":** Members may get confused by verse 15 ("firstborn of all creation"), mistakenly thinking Jesus was a created being. Clarify that "firstborn" (*prototokos*) denotes priority in rank, supreme status, and heirship, not birth order or origin, as confirmed by verses 16–17 where He creates all things.
- **Connecting Doctrine to Mission:** If the group gets bogged down in high theology, steer them to verses 28–29. Help them see that high Christology (knowing who Jesus is) directly fuels intense missional labor.

Leader Insights

- **Community:** Notice Epaphras' role (v. 7). The "One New Family" grows through faithful service and reporting good news of love in the Spirit among the saints.
- **Truth:** The "Truth Lens" establishes that Christ holds all things together (v. 17). When life feels chaotic, grounding ourselves in His cosmic sovereignty brings deep peace.
- **Prayer:** Paul's prayer (v. 9–12) focuses on spiritual wisdom, endurance, and joy rather than mere physical circumstances. This models how we should pray for one another.
- **Mission:** "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (v. 27) is the core of our "sending capacity". Mission is not carrying an empty rulebook into the world, but carrying the indwelling presence of Jesus into everyday relationships.