

Name: _____



Colossians

Weeks 1-5 of the 10 Week Series

*4G Series - 2022 - cbcfamily.net/4g
Calvary Baptist Church
cbcfamily.net / 512.303.1697 / office@cbcfamily.net*

Introduction to the series: *Colossians*

The book of Colossians is all about "greatness." Namely, the greatness of Jesus. He surpasses anything else we can worship, or ever hope to worship, with our life.

This is an important and timely message in a day and age where we're constantly surrounded by people and institutes claiming to have the wisdom we need to live happy lives. Join us in this 10-week sermon series as we explore the major themes and passages in Paul's letter to the Colossians.

Phillip Cole
Smithville Campus Pastor & Preaching Lead

Introduction To The 4G Guide

GATHER – GOD – GROUP – GIVE

It's important that we *GATHER* each week as a church family. Still, God wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our daily lives. This is the heart of the 4G Guides. These guides are written to encourage you in your personal *GOD TIME* and in your small *GROUPS*. They are designed to help you understand what God is teaching and apply it to your life. This understanding through application enables you to take what you are learning and *GIVE* it to others.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the *Christian Standard Bible* (CSB Text Edition: 2020).



USING THE 4G GUIDE

Each week is divided into four sections:

Gathering Time



On Sunday mornings we gather to worship, hear God's message, and be challenged to apply His word. You'll find the weekly Gathering Time sermon outlines and notes sections in this booklet.

If you need to join us online, go to cbcfamily.net and click "Watch Live"

Group Time



We learn from one another! 4G Groups meet to dig deeper into the weekly material. Group Time outlines are simple enough for anyone to facilitate. In addition, links to short video guides, sermon recaps, and other helpful resources are posted on our 4G web page.

God Times



Personal worship is vital to the Christian walk, so we've provided five daily devotionals for each weekly topic. This is your time to meet with God one-on-one in a guided devotional format. Once your God Time is finished, pray, seeking direction for the day.

Family Time



Family worship glorifies God. To help, we have created simple Family Time devotionals. In addition, to help get the conversations flowing, video or story guide links will be posted on our 4G web page.

cbcfamily.net/4g





Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: _____

Colossians 1:3-8

_____, Hope, and Love

Colossians 1:3-4

Faith Leads To _____.

Colossians 1:4-6

Where Is Your _____?

Colossians 1:6-8

Demonstrate _____ & _____

Colossians 1:3

Horizontal lines for taking notes.



Group Time

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y / N Y / N _____
 _____ _____

LOOK BACK:

Point: Children of light don't live in darkness.

- How's the journaling going?

Question: Is it more blessed to have children or grandchildren?

LOOK UP: Watch this week's video on the 4G web page.

Recap: In the first century Rome controlled all of Europe, East Asia, and North Africa. While there may have been plenty of oppression, it also offered opportunity. For the Gospel, Roman roads provided ease of travel. Roman authority provided relative peace. And Roman law provided a degree of systematic justice.

In Paul's letter to the Believers in Colossae, he addresses a church that he did not establish or even visit, but he disciplined the one who did (Epaphras). Paul has heard of their faith in Christ Jesus and their love for others because of their newfound hope in heaven through the receiving of the Gospel. His message to them is to stay true to their faith and the continued spread of the Gospel.

LOOK IN: Discussion

Read Colossians 1:1-8.

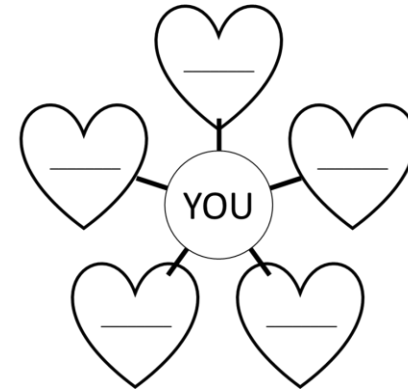
- It has been said that "parenting has its rewards, but one of the greatest rewards of children is grandchildren." How is discipleship similar?
- What kind of emotions do you think Paul experienced as he heard about the faith of those in Colossae?
- Reread verses 5-6. Faith in Christ Jesus gives us hope in an eternity in heaven and a desire to love others. How should we express this love? (Hint: The first two D's.) Be specific.

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: Because our faith and hope lead to love, the Gospel spreads.

Love by Demonstrating and Declaring. Disciple Others to Do the Same.

List up to five persons you are intentionally demonstrating God's love to and put their names in the hearts around YOU.



Next, circle the ones with whom you have declared/shared the good news of the Gospel.

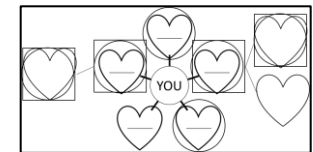


Now, put a box around those who have placed their faith and hope in Jesus Christ and the gospel.



faith

Finally, do the same process for each of those five you have listed by making hearts for their demonstrating love, circles for declaring, and boxes for accepting.



of

Which gives you greater joy, discipling others, or helping them disciple others?

What are some "Demonstrating God's Love and Declaring the Good News" activities your group could do together?

God Time Day 1: Struggle in Colossae



Have there been times in your life when you demonstrated your faith differently in order to blend in or be more accepted by others?

Paul is writing this letter to the church in Colossae because of a struggle. Living under Roman rule meant living according to their laws. As long as you worshiped Caesar as god/king, all religions could be added to the Roman pantheon of gods. This meant that all religions were accepted as true. This became a problem as early Christians began blending aspects of other religions with the exclusivity of Christ to be more accepted and less controversial.



Read 1 John 2:15-17.

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

Circle the word “love” in verse 15 (three times).

Draw a line through what we are not supposed to love.

Draw a box around how we are to show our love to God (verse 17b).



Now, read Romans 12:2.

Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Reread the question at the top of this page. Write down how you are tempted to conform.

Pray for God to give you the strength to remain steadfast in your faith, not to be conformed to the culture or temptations of the world, and to do His will.

God Time Day 2: Faith, Hope, and Love



Read Colossians 1:3-4.

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints.

Paul opens his letter to the church of Colossae by giving them some praise. Though he has never visited this church himself, their reputation of being a people of faith and love has reached his ears in prison.

Underline the words “faith” and “love” in verse 4.

When Paul speaks about the faith of the church, the evidence of that faith is the love they have for one another.

Now read what Jesus said in John 13:35.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Do people recognize faith in your life? How?

God Time Day 3: Faith Leads to Love



Read Colossians 1:4-6a.

⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints ⁵ because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you.

Hope is a powerful force, motivating people to overcome adversity, and encouraging them to carry on when life becomes tedious. It is our hope of heaven, through our faith in Jesus, that motivates us to express love for others.

Write down the names of two people you know that could use the hope of Jesus Christ in their lives.



Pray for opportunities to demonstrate your faith by showing them some love.

God Time Day 4: Where is Your Hope?

In Day 3, we talked about the power of hope. Hope can inspire people in amazing ways, but hope placed in the wrong things can be very dangerous.



Read Romans 3:23-24, 27.

²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. . . . ²⁷ Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By one of works? No, on the contrary, by a law of faith.

People will often put their hope in morality or their ability to be good enough. But according to the verse above, who is sinless according to God's law?

Another common place for people to put their hope is in "living their best life," which is often measured in material possessions or the pursuit of enjoyment.

Read what King Solomon, a man who had everything in his time, had to say about that hope in Ecclesiastes 2:10-11.

¹⁰ All that my eyes desired, I did not deny them. I did not refuse myself any pleasure, for I took pleasure in all my struggles. This was my reward for all my struggles. ¹¹ When I considered all that I had accomplished and what I had labored to achieve, I found everything to be futile and a pursuit of the wind. There was nothing to be gained under the sun.

According to King Solomon, such pursuits are "futile." In other words, they were empty, meaningless, and temporary.

Now, reread Colossians 1:4-6a from Day 3.

When we put our hope in Jesus, the eternal and everlasting God, we have a hope that is full of meaning and purpose. After all, hope springs from our faith and love, and these are not just feelings.



Faith and love need to be demonstrated and poured into others if they are to have any purpose in our lives.

God Time Day 5: Demonstrate, Declare, and Disciple



Read Colossians 1:6b.

It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God's grace.

Let's begin with a few Yes/No questions:

- When you discover an amazing restaurant with amazing food, do you tell anyone about it? Yes No
- When you fall in love and get married, do you invite friends and family to celebrate with you? Yes No
- If you know the greatest source of hope and salvation that can literally save people, do you share it as much as possible? Yes No

When you have that eternal hope in Jesus Christ, seeing people living without that hope should be gut-wrenching. After all, you can imagine what it would be like to live without that hope, and your life is different now.

When you experience the goodness of the hope you have because of your faith in Jesus, from that comes love (a love for God and a love for people). When that faith and love are inside of you, it comes flowing out of your life as you demonstrate God's love in your life by pouring into others. Not only do you *demonstrate God's love*, but you also *declare good news* by telling people about the hope you have. As you do this, lives are touched, and you *make disciples*, teaching them how to demonstrate and declare this hope, faith, and love just as you did.

On Day 3, you wrote down the names of two people who could use the hope of Jesus Christ in their lives and began to pray for opportunities to demonstrate your faith and love with them. Now, it is time "*to truly appreciate God's grace*" and put it into action.

When you *demonstrate God's love*, are you prepared to *declare the good news* if they ask? Yes No

Help is available in the "tools" section at cbcfamily.net/go2.

Family Time



Main Idea:

Faith Leads to Love



Key Verse: John 13:34-35

³⁴ I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Set it Up:

You will need an empty bottle with a screw cap, a thumbtack, and water to fill the empty bottle. You will want to do this experiment over the sink or a tub so that the water can drain into it.

You will need to fill the bottle with water and screw the cap back on the top. In various places around the bottle, less than 2 inches from the bottom, poke holes with the thumbtack (no water should leak out of the bottle).

Now, with the bottle, have everyone gather around you. Go ahead and unscrew the cap and then screw it back on quickly. Do this a few times.



Ask:

What happened when I loosened the cap?

What happened when the cap was on tight?

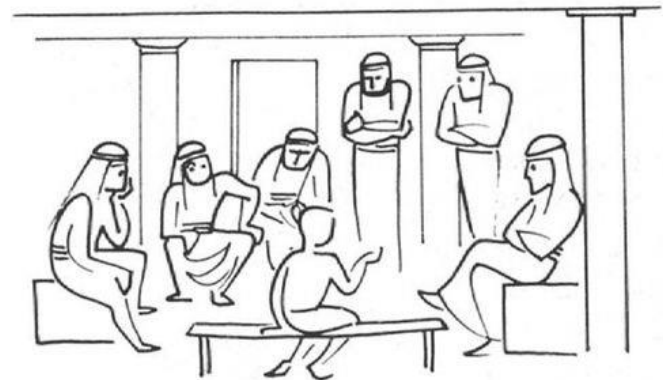
Read John 13:34-35 again.

Is there anything in our experiment that reminds you of this Scripture?

In the verse, something is supposed to spill out. What should spill out? Our love for one another! This can only happen if we have placed our faith in God. It is our faith in God that leads us to love those around us.

If there is no water in the bottle, then none will spill out. What does that tell us about our relationship with God?

We need to allow Him to refill us with His love each day. We do that through our faith, prayer, reading the Bible, and talking with other Christians.





Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: _____

Colossians 1:9-20

There Is _____ In Prayer.

Colossians 1:9

How Do We Live A Life _____ To _____?

Colossians 1:10

2 Corinthians 3:18

Colossians 1:10-11

He Has _____ You.

Colossians 1:12

Colossians 1:13-14

Colossians 1:19-20

Horizontal lines for taking notes.



Group Time

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y / N
 Y / N

LOOK BACK:

Point: *Because our faith and hope lead to love, the Gospel spreads.*

- How are your discipleship grandchildren doing?

Question: When you construct something (like a model or piece of furniture) do you read the directions first or build until you get stuck?

LOOK UP: Watch this week’s video on the 4G web page.

Recap: As we continue in the first chapter of Colossians, Paul reminds the Believers in Colossae that he and his posse are praying for them. Specifically, they are praying that these Believers will be filled with the knowledge of God’s will. This gives us purpose: living a life worthy and pleasing to God by *“bearing fruit in every good work,”* leading to *“growing in the knowledge of God,”* leading to more good work that bears fruit for God, etc., etc.

When we experience salvation through faith and hope in Jesus, we not only become a part of God’s family, but we also become qualified workers in the family business. Because of what Jesus did for us, we are now workers with a purpose – to expand the family.

LOOK IN: Discussion

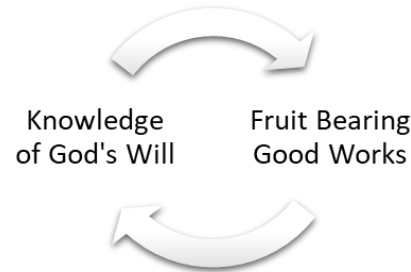
Read Colossians 1:9b-12 (It’s one long sentence).

- Understanding knowledge should bear fruit, but can bearing fruit prove understanding of knowledge? (Hint: John 15:8)
- How might being filled with the knowledge of God’s will require us to change (habits, lifestyles, livelihoods)?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *Understanding God’s will is a growing cycle of knowledge and good works.*

Learn More to Do More. Do More to Learn More.



This next week, journal three things God is teaching you, three applications of each teaching, and what you learned from each application.

1. God is teaching me:

Therefore, I did: _____

This is what I learned: _____

2. God is teaching me: _____

Therefore, I did: _____

This is what I learned: _____

3. God is teaching me: _____

Therefore, I did: _____

This is what I learned: _____

God Time Day 1: Walk in Him

As we continue in our series through Colossians, we remember that Paul is writing to a church. Most of the members are relatively new converts, which is why Paul begins the letter by answering some foundational questions about what it means to be a Christian.



Read Colossians 1:9.
For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,

Circle the word "praying."

Now, underline what Paul is praying for.

Notice that the first thing Paul does is pray. Paul is not just praying for the church; he is praying as if it is the most important thing he can do for them. As much as Paul may want to teach and disciple them in person, he understands that it is far more important for the members of the church to be tapped into the presence of God.

Why is this so important? After all, these church members have made a confession of faith, prayed a prayer, possibly filled out a decision card. Isn't that "mission accomplished?"

Paul prayed for them to be _____ with the knowledge of God's will.

The only reason for him to pray for this was if they had not yet been filled. We all need to be filled. It is not enough for us to make a decision and pray a prayer (this is *salvation*). Becoming a Christian begins the process of drawing closer and closer to God, growing and maturing in His presence and wisdom (this is *sanctification*).

What areas in your life are you struggling to allow God to be involved, let alone be in control?



Pray for God to give you humility to fully surrender to Him and allow Him to be Lord over ALL your life.

God Time Day 2: A Life That Pleases God



Read Colossians 1:9b-10.
^{9b} We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,

Circle the words *knowledge, wisdom, and understanding*.

By themselves, these do very little. But when they are applied, when they are put into action ("so that you may walk..."), they change our lives.

Underline why Paul wants them to be filled. (v.10)

When we draw close to God it changes us; that is what we call "growth." This leads us to live differently. It creates in us a desire to learn more, to do more – putting faith into action – so that we can grow even closer to Him.

How has your life changed since coming to know God?

Pray for God to reveal His will and His presence today.

God Time Day 3: Transformational Power



Reread Colossians 1:9b-10 from yesterday.

Paul knows that greater knowledge of God's will changes lives. The reality is that relationships always change us. When we practice religion as just a list of rules it may feel simpler, but the impact is often temporary. When we enter into a relationship with God, we experience His presence, and we are transformed.

What is one area of your life you need to change?

Without just sticking to some rules, how can you allow God to transform you? How can you better understand His will?

God Time Day 4: Growth is Change, Change is Uncomfortable



Read Colossians 1:11-12.

¹¹ *being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully* ¹² *giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.*

For the past several days, we've talked about growth and transformation. It may sound simple, but there is a reality that we need to address: most people do not like change. Change often involves discomfort, the pain of losing what is familiar and comfortable, and the fear of entering what is unfamiliar and unknown.

Circle the words "endurance" and "patience" in verse 11.

Now read what Jesus says in John 16:33.

I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.

Change comes whether we want it or not. When the car doesn't start, when a child moves out of the home, or when a loved one dies, your life is changed. When the trials of life come, we can allow the pain and discomfort to destroy us, or we can draw closer to God and allow Him to guide us through the pain and toward healing.

When we only pray for God to make us happy, or to shield us from discomfort, we reveal a belief that God exists to only bring prosperity into our lives. Our "faith" contradicts itself. How? Because these prayers say this: "God help me, but don't change me." It simply doesn't work that way – God is not a lucky rabbit's foot.

So many people pray for the miracle rescue, for God to take away the storms. What we need to be praying is for God to hold us close so we can experience His presence, as He leads us through the storms.

What is one storm you are experiencing? _____



Pray for God to grow you deeply in His presence through this storm.

God Time Day 5: Rescued from Darkness, Inheriting Light



Read Colossians 1:12-14.

¹² *giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.* ¹³ *He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.* ¹⁴ *In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

This week, we have talked a lot about transformation, growth, and change. Perhaps you might recall on Day 3 the difference between change that comes from practicing a list of rules versus change that comes from being in relationship with God. This happens because we are transformed by being in relationship with God.

Underline "rescued" and "transferred" in verse 13.

Now circle the word "redemption" in verse 14.

When God redeems us through His Son, Jesus Christ, He essentially changes us from being a "broken sinner" into a "child of God." Even when we continue to fall short, choose poorly, or sin after we have been saved, that does not change our identity in Christ. Our foundation remains a "child of God" even when we mess up.

Go back and read Colossians 1:9-14. (Read it in your Bible or piece it together from Days 1 to 5.)

What was your life like before knowing Jesus as your Savior? Write down two words to describe your life before.



How has your life been transformed by God since then? Write down two words to describe the change in your life.

Is there anyone you know who has seen the change but may not know why your life is different? Write their name.

Share with them this week about how God has transformed your life. (Watch [15-Sec. Testimony](http://cbcfamily.net/go2) at cbcfamily.net/go2.)



Family Time

Main Idea: There Is Power in Prayer



Key Verse: Psalm 116:1-2 (ESV)

¹I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.² Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

Set it Up:

Did you know that the things we pray for show others and ourselves the type of relationship we have with God? If all we ever did was ask God for things, then we might think that God is like a vending machine where we put money into the machine and get an item back. Prayer is so much more than asking God for things.



Ask:

What if we as a family would spend more time praying to God for Him to use us?

That would let God know that we want to do His will and not our own. If we really want to make a difference in this world then we need to talk to God and ask for Him to lead us.

The next page lists different prayers to use with your family. Let me challenge you to take time as a family each day to pray one of these prayers. Then just watch how God will use your family to make a difference in this world.

Day 1: Look up Psalm 51:1-12.

Pray this Psalm as a family. It is so important to start this journey with confessing our sins and allowing God to strengthen us.

Day 2: We are God's no matter what. Pray these words of praise from Psalm 100 to God today:

¹ *Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!*

² *Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!*

³ *Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

⁴ *Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!*

⁵ *For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.*

Day 3: Paul gives us a great prayer in Philippians 1:9-11 that is focused on allowing God to use our family to show love to those around us:

⁹ *And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*



Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: _____

Colossians 1:15-23

Who _____ Is.

Colossians 1:15

Jesus _____ All Things.

Colossians 1:16

John 1:1-5

Jesus Is _____ All Things.

Colossians 1:16-18

Jesus Is Our _____.

Colossians 1:20-23

John 1:6-11

Horizontal lines for gathering notes.



Group Time

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y / N Y / N _____

_____ _____

LOOK BACK:

Point: *Understanding God’s will is a growing cycle of knowledge and good works.*

- What did you learn by applying what God is teaching?

Question: What is meant by the phrase, “Garbage in, Garbage out?”

LOOK UP: Watch this week’s video on the 4G web page.

Recap: Paul tells us who Jesus is. Jesus is the *image of God* and the *firstborn of all creation*. As the image of God, in Jesus we can see and experience God’s mercy, compassion, and power.

In many Middle Eastern cultures, the roles of family members are defined. Typically, the eldest son (*firstborn*) is responsible for the family logistics and especially the dynamics of the family business. Referring to Jesus as the *firstborn of all creation* symbolizes Jesus’ authority over all things (Matthew 28:18). He not only reigns over all things created, He reigns over and is the head the Church – His body, us.

As such, Jesus’ purpose in coming is to reconcile us to the Father – to bring us into the family, and ergo, the family business. This in turn becomes our purpose: to declare this good news as it was declared to us.

LOOK IN: Discussion

Read Colossians 1:15-23.

- Reread verses 19-20 and replace the “his/him” with Jesus as appropriate and read it again. What does this say about the significance of the cross?
- Reread verse 21-23. Using a variety of versions, in verse 23, what does Paul call himself? What does this mean?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *Jesus is over all things – He offers us peace.*

Grounded and Steadfast in Faith!

Read Colossians 1:21-22.

Rewrite these two verses in your own words:

Share this with three people this week and record a synopsis of each of their responses:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Read Colossians 1:23a. Share this with the group next meeting.

2022 Women's Conference

SATURDAY, OCT 15
BASTROP CAMPUS
10AM - 3PM



REGISTER ONLINE
Childcare Available
Upon Registration



JOIN US FOR A KEYNOTE SPEAKER,
BREAKOUT SESSIONS, AND VIBRANT WORSHIP

Men's Kayak Event

OCT 10
8:30AM-1:30PM

*Columbus Day
Mens Kayak!*

- Includes Complete Kayak Rental from Bastrop River Co and Shuttle Service
- Lunch and drinks provided
- Come connect with others on a relaxing cruise down Colorado river
- Connect with God and nature

Register Online Now! Only \$30
DiscipleLearner.org/Kayak



Men@CBC is teaming up with Bastrop River Company, Disciple Learner Resources, and Summit Outdoor Leadership to bring you a Columbus Day Kayak Adventure. cbcfamily.net/men

ON-RAMP

DINNER

Sunday, October 16, 4-7 PM
Smithville Campus

On-Ramp Dinners are offered quarterly for anyone to:

- Apply For CBC Membership.
- Discover How To Serve.
- Understand The CBC Vision To Impact Our World For Jesus As...

ONE FAMILY IN MANY PLACES.

This dinner will be held at the Smithville campus but is open to anyone.

The On-Ramp Dinner is free, but preregistration is required. Childcare is available; registration DEADLINE for childcare is October 9.



God Time Day 1: Jesus Is the Image of the Invisible God



One reason that Paul wrote to the Colossian church was to refute the false teachings that were taking place. Because of this, his letter contains some very deep theological truths about who Jesus is. This week’s passage gives one of the most profound descriptions of Jesus in the whole Bible. Let’s dive in deep.



Read Colossians 1:15.
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Circle the word “*image*.” Underline who Jesus is the image of.

The word “*image*” literally means an icon or idol. Jesus is the living idol of the invisible God. Remember, an idol is something *bowed to and worshiped*. Worshiping an idol goes against the first two of the 10 commandments, but clearly, the Bible teaches us to worship Jesus (see Matthew 2:2, 2:8-11, and 14:33). How does this not break God’s commandments? Because Jesus is fully God, and so He is worthy of our worship. The more we look at Jesus the more we understand about God the Father.

Circle the word “*firstborn*.”

What is Jesus the firstborn over? _____

The word “*firstborn*” in the Bible means priority or supremacy. It *can* refer to birth order, but the context here does not support that. In this passage, as we’ll see tomorrow, the context highlights Christ’s *priority and supremacy!* This is a hugely important Christian doctrine (teaching). Jesus is *not* the first one born out of creation – that would mean God created Him, and He would not be God because He would be a creature. (Remember this if a Jehovah’s Witness or Mormon comes to your door.)



Take what you just learned and write a short explanation of why Jesus is worthy of our worship.

God Time Day 2: Jesus Created All Things



Read Colossians 1:16.
For everything was created by him [Jesus], in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through him and for him.

In the verse above, circle what Jesus created.

Look up John 1:1-3 (remember that “*the Word*” is Jesus) and look at Genesis 1:1-3. In Genesis, notice that God created everything by speaking His “*Word*.”

Journal your answers to these three questions:

- How do you see these three passages aligning?
- What did Jesus create?
- So, what does this tell us about Jesus being God? (Again, remember this if a Jehovah’s Witness comes to the door. *GotQuestions.org* is a great resource to help.)

God Time Day 3: Jesus Sustains His Creation



Read Colossians 1:17-18, NLT.
¹⁷He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. ¹⁸Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.

Jesus is both *preexistent* and *immanent*. This means that He existed before anything else. He is present with His creation and sustains it, but He is also totally distinct from it. This is foundational Christian doctrine.

In verse 18, circle the phrase “*the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead*.” Jesus sets the pattern for us – someday we will all rise from the dead to an eternity with God in a new humanity.

Since Jesus sustains everything, He is God and to be obeyed.

What step of obedience is He asking you to take today?

God Time Day 4: Jesus Is Over All Things

We've already talked about Jesus' supremacy. But we aren't done yet! Jesus is so supreme, the Bible has even more to say—in Colossians and elsewhere.



Read Colossians 1:19.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in [Jesus].

In this part of Colossians, Paul is refuting the false teachings that had infiltrated the church.

Stop for a minute and think about how sound biblical doctrine (teaching) and theology (beliefs about God) protects the church from false teaching – both from outside and inside of the church. If we begin to believe wrongly, what might happen to the church?

It is important we grow in grace (the love we show for God and others) and in knowledge of truth (using our intellects). Both are needed to keep the church on the right track.

Look again at verse 19. Circle what it says dwells in Jesus.

All the “fullness” of God dwells in Jesus and not in anyone or anything else. This means that in Christ is the sum-total of God's attributes and powers. Jesus was both fully human (except for sin) and fully God. And since that is the case, Jesus is over all things (Read Matthew 28:18). We should never elevate anything above Him.

What is one thing you allow to be above your relationship with God? (Where do you spend time, talent, and treasure?)

What will you change to put God first?

Bonus Step: Look up John 12:41 and Isaiah 6:1-4 to read about the glory of Christ. He is over all things!

God Time Day 5: Jesus is our Peace



There are a couple of things that we must understand about sin to better understand how Jesus is our peace.

First, all of humanity are sinners. We are born sinners because Adam and Eve's original disobedience (sin) affected everyone. Before sin entered the world, humankind had complete peace with God – there was no disharmony in the relationship. But once that first sin was committed, the world was affected and the peace (*shalom*) between God and humankind was broken.

Second, since we are all sinners, our need for restored peace with God can't be obtained based on our own efforts! Why? Because our sinfulness taints everything we do. We need a perfect sacrifice to restore the peace for us. His name is Jesus. (Watch 1-Story at cbcfamily.net/go2)



Read Colossians 1:21-23.

²¹Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions. ²²But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him — ²³if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.

In verses 21 and 22, circle how the people *were* before and underline how they *are* after Jesus reconciled them to God (or restored their relationship with God).

Put a box around what we, who continue in the faith, should not shift away from. (v. 23)

Spend time in worship and thankfulness for who Jesus is and for what He has done.

How have this week's God Time devotions challenged or grown your beliefs?



Family Time

Main Idea:

Jesus Created All Things



Key Verse: Colossians 1:16, NIV

For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.



Say:

We are surrounded by the cool things God made. But sometimes we get so used to seeing God's creation around us that we don't really pay attention to it. In the movie clip from Honey, I Shrunk the Kids, a group of kids suddenly sees creation in a whole new way. Check out the video clip.

Watch: Week 3 Video

This week's video is on the Playlist of the CBC YouTube channel or go to cbcfamily.net and click on 4G Guides for the video link.



Ask:

- How do you think those kids felt when they realized how little they were?
- How did their perspective of God's creation change?
- What do you think surprised them the most about their new situation?

Say:

The familiar back yard suddenly seemed new and amazing to these kids because they were seeing it from a different viewpoint.

Grab a piece of paper and draw a part of creation. But there is a catch. You must draw it from a different viewpoint. You could be a bird in the sky, an ant on the ground, or have some other view. (Give everyone five minutes to complete their pictures.)

How can seeing God's creation in a new way help us to praise Him for what He has made?

What can you do this week to view God's creation as fresh and exciting?



Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: _____

Colossians 1:24-29; 2:1-5

How To Rejoice In _____.

Colossians 1:24

2 Corinthians 11:24-27

What You Have Been _____

You Are To _____.

Colossians 1:25

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

The _____

Has Been _____

Colossians 1:26-27

Through _____.

Colossians 1:28-29

Do You _____ Truth?

Colossians 2:1-5

Horizontal lines for taking notes.



Group Time Week 4

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y / N
 Y / N

LOOK BACK:

Point: *Jesus is over all things – He offers us peace.*

- Highlight some responses you received last week when sharing truths from God’s Word with others.

Question: What is the role of an ambassador?

LOOK UP: Watch this week’s video on the 4G web page.

Recap: Paul continues by letting the Colossians know that he rejoices that he is suffering for their sake. How has he suffered? Five times he was whipped (39 lashes each), three times beaten with rods, once he was stoned, and three times shipwrecked. He’s been constantly on the move with no permanent home and now he’s in prison. He says he has become a servant of the church. Why? Because of what Jesus has done for him and all of us.

Paul is in the family, and he has bought into his role in the family business hook, line, and sinker. He is all in because Christ was all in for us. Paul gives us three disciple-making directives:

1. Know the hope you have in Christ.
2. Proclaim the Gospel to all people – no matter what.
3. Teach irrefutable truth.

LOOK IN: Discussion

Read Colossians 1:24-29 & 2:1-5.

- In verses 25-27, we see that there is a *mystery* revealed. What was it (v. 27) and why was this such a game changer?
- In verse 28, Paul tells of three main things his team does: proclaim, warn/admonish, and teach. Discuss how we might do these today and how doing all three together keeps us focused on truth.

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *The mystery has been revealed through Jesus.*

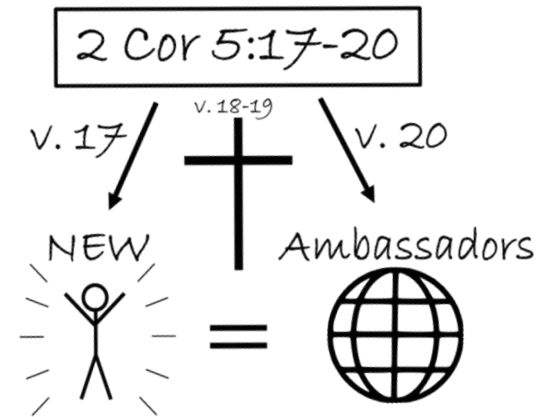
Those Who Have Been Made New Have a Job to Do!

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Verse 17 tells us that if we are “in Christ” we have been made “new.” Have you been made new? In what ways? (To get started, watch the *15-Second Testimony* video on our Go2 web page.)

Verses 18-19 tell us what the mystery revealed is: Reconciliation through Christ Jesus. This is the Gospel. (See Matthew 24:14)

Verse 20 tells us that if we are “in Christ” we are ambassadors. Are you fulfilling your role as ambassador?



Reread these verses and redraw the picture above on a whiteboard or piece of paper. Then ask, “Can you be made new and not be an ambassador? Can you be an ambassador and not be made new?”

List what you can do as a group to fulfill this God-ordained role as ambassadors for His message of reconciliation to the world:

God Time Day 1: Rejoice in Suffering

At the end of Colossians 1, Paul shifts his focus from the deep truths of the Gospel to the work he has done for the Gospel's sake.



Read Colossians 1:24, NLT
I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church.

Why can Paul be glad? (What is he participating in?)

Like Paul, when we share Jesus and do God's work on earth, we can be glad even when suffering comes our way. We know that as we pour our lives out for Jesus, we identify with Him. We have fellowship with Christ and with His people!

Have you suffered for Christ? How did this bring you joy?

Pray for those around the globe who are suffering for Christ.
(Visit www.persecution.org)

God Time Day 2: Give What You've Been Given



Read Colossians 1:25, NLT
God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you.

Circle what God gave to Paul and underline the means by which Paul would do this.

We've been given the message of the gospel. Since that is the case, we have the responsibility (like Paul did) to go and share that message with others. (We read more about that in verses like Matthew 28:19-20 and Romans 10:14-15.)

You are a "sent" person. So, what specifically are you doing to serve the church by sharing the gospel?

God Time Day 3: Jesus Reveals the Mystery

In the Old Testament days, God had made the promises that the whole world would be blessed through Abraham and that a king would come someday to sit on the throne of King David forever. These promises seemed very mysterious. How would this happen? Who would the king be? On this side of the cross, it seems simple. We know that Jesus died for the whole world and that He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. Keep that in mind while you read the following passage.



Read Colossians 1:26-27.
²⁶the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

The "mystery" about Jesus had been "hidden" (which just means *not revealed*) for a long time. How long? (v. 26)

In verse 27, circle who God wanted to make the mystery known to and underline what the mystery is.

Gentiles are those who are not Jews. And the mystery isn't some big, impossible to understand secret. Instead, it is a truth that was waiting to be unfolded. It is the truth of "Christ in you, the hope of glory," which means we get to share in His glory. (Remember talking about *hope* in week 1?)

In Old Testament times, God could only dwell among the people when they presented all the sacrifices and obeyed all the laws as God told them to. Now, God dwells in and among Believers because Christ was and is the perfect sacrifice that gave Himself once and for all.



Write down three things in this passage that you praise God for. Spend some time in grateful prayer for each.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

God Time Day 4: Proclaim Jesus

Understanding more about who Jesus is and what He has done for us tends to deepen both our love for Him and our desire to obey Him. A natural result of that is that we “*proclaim*” (or declare) Him to others.



Read Colossians 1:28-29.

²⁸We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹I labor for this, striving with his strength that works powerfully in me.

In verse 29, how does Paul expect to do this work?

In verse 28, circle the words, “*we proclaim him.*”

Underline the words “*so that we*” and circle the words that follow (up until the end of that sentence). Read what you have marked.

Paul had a specific goal in mind: he proclaimed Christ so that the church would reach spiritual maturity. We would call this discipleship. Discipleship is a very important part of the spiritual maturity of the church. It has two parts: evangelism (demonstrating and declaring the good news) and teaching (training Believers in truth and application).



Make a list of three people you can share Jesus with. Then plan to do it and get started.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Are you training other Believers, or do you support a ministry that does? Name them here:

If you don’t, take a first step. (E.g., use 4G family times with your kids, start a Bible study at work, volunteer to help a ministry that does this, etc.)

God Time Day 5: Warn, Teach, Encourage, and Join

We read this verse yesterday, but let’s look at it again.



Read Colossians 1:28.

We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Underline the words “*warning and teaching.*”

We learned yesterday that Paul warns and teaches so others can become spiritually mature in Christ.

A wise warning and solid teaching are crucial. Think about the child who doesn’t know better than to touch the hot oven, or the person who steps out in front of an oncoming car. Warning and teaching can save someone from serious danger! (Read Ezekiel 3:18-21)

Has someone lovingly warned or taught you? And so saved you from spiritual danger? Journal about that and then thank them if you haven’t.

How might love make the experience more pleasant?



Read Colossians 2:2-5.

I want their hearts to be encouraged and joined together in love, so that they may have all the riches of complete understanding and have the knowledge of God’s mystery— Christ. ³In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

These last verses are almost like a prayer that expounds a little more on why Paul warns and teaches.

Underline anything that stands out to you.

Pray these verses over our church and make sure you are doing your part to encourage others in their faith. Ask them to join your efforts in love. Who can you invite?

Family Time



Main Idea:

How To Rejoice in Suffering

**Key Verse: Colossians 1:24, NIV**

Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

Set it up:

To begin, we are going to watch a scene from Homeward Bound. The family thinks their pets have been lost forever, and they are sad. Let's see what happens.

Watch: Week 4 Video

This week's video is on the Playlist of the CBC YouTube channel or go to cbcfamily.net and click on 4G Guides for the video link.

**Ask:**

Have you ever found something you thought was lost?



What was it, and how did you feel when you found it?

Say:

In the movie, just before the movie scene we watched, the family was quite sad because they thought they had lost their beloved pets. But in the midst of their sorrow, they experienced tremendous blessings and joy when their pets were returned to them. In the same way, God offers healing to people who experience all kinds of emotions.

Together read Psalms 34:18 and 147:3.

These verses teach us that when we are *brokenhearted*, God is near us and wants to heal us.

What events might cause us to be *brokenhearted*?

How might we feel *crushed* or *wounded*?

How does God *heal* or comfort us in these situations?

As a family, think about a situation in which someone who is brokenhearted might receive God's healing. In the movie clip, brokenhearted people were comforted. How else might brokenhearted people be comforted? Can we be part of God's healing?

Remind everyone that God is always there to comfort us in times of sorrow, and we can be a part of how He heals others.



Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: _____

Colossians 2:6-15

_____ Identity

Colossians 2:6-10

_____ Identity

Colossians 2:11-12

We Get _____!

Colossians 2:13-15

Lined area for gathering notes.



Group Time Week 5

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y / N
 Y / N

LOOK BACK:

Point: *The mystery has been revealed through Jesus.*

- What items did you list that you could do as a group to fulfill your role as God’s ambassadors?

Question: How do you respond to this, “Tell us a bit about yourself.”

LOOK UP: Watch this week’s video on the 4G web page.

Recap: Identity is an important topic because all other information flows from it. It is the filter through which we perceive the world and make decisions. When we receive Jesus as Lord, it means our identity is now in and through Him. When this is lived out as a daily practice, it is very difficult to be swayed by outside or worldly influences.

Paul gives the example of circumcision. This practice was used to identify one as a Jew. It separated the Jews from the Gentiles. It cut them off from the rest of humanity as God’s chosen – and they would literally check you. In the same way, we can be identified/checked by how we live. We now live as those who were once dead in our trespasses but have been made alive in Jesus.

LOOK IN: Discussion

Read Colossians 2:6-8.

- Compare it to the rocky soil in the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:5-6 and 20-21. (Notice root/rooted is used in both.)
- Make a list of practices we can “walk in” to be “rooted and built up in him and established in the faith.”

Read Colossians 2:9-15.

- Work on a group paraphrase. Type it up and send it to the group.

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *Our identity is in Jesus.*

Know Who You Are!

Read each of these verses in Colossians and paraphrase (put them in your own words) what they each say about being “in Christ”:

1:16 _____

1:19 _____

1:22 _____

2:3 _____

2:6 _____

2:7 _____

2:9 _____

2:10 _____

2:11 _____

2:12 _____

2:15 _____

3:20 _____

4:7 _____

Summarize what you discovered about your identity:

God Time Day 1: Walk in Him



Read Colossians 2:6-7.

⁶So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude.

Would you describe your life as “*overflowing with gratitude?*” Why or why not?

 Above, circle any words that stand out to you about the organic nature of our connection to Christ. This verse is key to the whole book, because when we receive Christ as Lord, we will live in a way that reflects that belief (“*walk in him*”).

This same idea of a close connection with Christ appears in many different places throughout the New Testament. Read each passage before answering the questions below:

- John 15:4-5 - *Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.*
- 1 Corinthians 15:22 – *For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.*
- Galatians 5:16 - *I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh.*
- 1 John 1:7 - *If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*



List choices you make on a regular basis that are because you are “*in Christ.*”

God Time Day 2: Not Christ AND; Just Christ



Read Colossians 2:8.

Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ.

Paul wrote this letter to warn against combining faith in Christ with other, worldly ideas. Underline the words in the verse which describe sources of these ideas.

This human tendency can be seen all through the Bible and history. For example:

- The Israelites worshipped the local gods in addition to worshipping the Lord.
- Jesus had to explain how it was impossible to serve both God and money.
- Today we see people combining “Christianity” with patriotism (God and Country).

When you define who you are, does anything compete or “share the stage” with your commitment to Christ?

God Time Day 3: Union With Christ



Read Colossians 2:9-10.

⁹For the entire fullness of God’s nature dwells bodily in Christ, ¹⁰and you have been filled by him, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

There are many “powers” that affect our lives: presidents, CEOs, judges, celebrities, experts, political parties, etc. Living in union with Christ lifts us above them because all the fullness of God comes to us through Him. He holds the power (*is the head*) over all worldly authorities.

Other than God, where do you tend to place your allegiance/loyalty?

 Is it crowding out the fullness of God in your heart? If so, how will you change this?

God Time Day 4: Internal Identity



Read Colossians 2:11-12, NCV

¹¹ Also in Christ you had a different kind of circumcision, a circumcision not done by hands. It was through Christ's circumcision, that is, his death, that you were made free from the power of your sinful self. ¹² When you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and you were raised up with him through your faith in God's power that was shown when he raised Christ from the dead.



Rewrite these verses in your own words:

Re-read Colossians 2:6-12 (Days 1-4 of this week). When we are "in Christ," we let go of the world's definitions about who we are. The world's powers lose their grip on us, and we discover a new life by faith. Our identity and value rest secure in what God says about us. This truth changes the way we live and the choices we make.

If you have been in Christ much of your life, it can be easy to lose sight of how great this change is. We often start living as if our identity rests upon our history and choices rather than in what Christ has done in and for us. Spend some time reflecting on where your life might have gone without Him.

If you are new in Christ, rejoice in this change and devote yourself to growing deeper in your faith. Hold onto the truth of who you are because of Him.

If you are not in Christ or uncertain if you are, ask for help.

A great Christian resource to use is GotQuestions.org.



you

God Time Day 5: We Get God!



Read Colossians 2:13-15.

¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. ¹⁴ He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him.

In case anyone had forgotten or didn't know, Paul restates the good news in this passage.

Underline the words which describe our situation before Jesus came to save us.

Circle the actions He performed on our behalf.

Put into your own words what Christ did regarding the world powers which had held us in slavery.

Reread Colossians 2:9-10 from Day 3.

How would you define what it means to be "filled by Him?"

If your life is truly being filled by God in Christ, how much room will there be for things which pull us away from Him?

What will you do now to re-immersede yourself in all that Christ means to those who trust in Him? (E.g., join a 4G Group, Agape Group, or Fireteam: cbcfamily.net/groups)



Expressing our thankfulness is a first step and a result of this new life. Do others see this in you enough to ask why?



Family Time

Main Idea:

Let It Out



Key Verse: Colossians 2:6-7, NIV

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Set it up:

Thankfulness isn't always a natural emotion. Many times, we find ourselves grabbing the prize and heading off to enjoy it without considering where it came from.



Ask:

Who can tell me what the word gratitude means?

Showing gratitude means that we understand and appreciate the source of our blessings. Everyone has a different style of showing thankfulness. How do you show that you are grateful? (Sending a card, saying thank you, giving a gift, or even jumping up and down.)



Read Philippians 4:11-13 together.

¹¹ I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I find myself. ¹² I know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. ¹³ I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.

Say:

Whether he had plenty or not enough, Paul learned to be happy (content) in every situation. We can always find something for which to be thankful.

Right now, we are going to practice a way for us to change our complaining to contentment. For every complaint we have, we must say three good things.

For example: "Why do we always have mashed potatoes? I do not like lumpy potatoes!"

Three good things would be: I am glad we have peas; they are my favorite. I am happy we have plenty of food to eat. I am glad Mom or Dad makes dinner for us.

Now take some time to practice this together.

Finish by saying this statement:

God is good and gives us what we need.

We respond to Him by being thankful.

The 3-Step “1-on-1 Encouragement” Process

Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25

1. Partner-up: Partners should be of the same gender. If there is an odd number three is okay but work swiftly.
2. Partners ask each other these five questions:

	1) Did you spend specific personal time in the BIBLE <u>each day</u> this past week?	These are “Yes” or “No” questions.
	2) Did you spend specific time in PRAYER <u>each day</u> this past week – not just for meals?	Any hesitations or “Well...” responses are circled “No.”
	3) Did you do something specific to show Godly LOVE to someone this past week?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and, on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they showed love to, shared the gospel with, or disciplined. • If not, leave the line blank.
	4) Did you intentionally share the GOSPEL with anyone this past week?	
	5) Did you DISCIPLE anyone this past week? (Ex: Sharing with others from any of the Gathering, God, Group, or Family Times)	

3. Each partner prays for the other: No matter how or what the partner has done over the past week, this is an intentional prayer of **encouragement** for the coming week!