

Week 1 (Week of September 27) — Colossians: Living Into God's Story

Before you begin please share introductions and read through the [Group Life Participation at New Cov Document](#) to learn about the purpose of groups, practices for healthy groups, and our seasonal structure.

Start Here (Ice Breaker Question):

What is something you've been part of—an organization, team, family tradition, community, etc.—that made you feel like you belonged? What helped create that sense of belonging?

1. Who We Are in Christ -Read Colossians 1:1–5 together

1. How does Paul describe the people he is writing to? What words or phrases stand out to you? What do you think Paul is emphasizing about their identity?
 2. What is the relationship between their **faith in Christ**, their **love for others**, and their **hope in heaven**?
 3. How might your understanding of who you are “in Christ” affect the way you approach your life, relationships, successes, or failures?
-

2. The Gospel Bears Fruit -Read Colossians 1:6–8 together

1. What evidence does Paul give that the Gospel has taken root in their lives?
 2. Verse 6 says the Gospel is “bearing fruit and growing.” What do you think it looks like for the Gospel to **bear fruit** in someone's life?
 3. Why do you think Paul connects understanding God's grace with the Gospel bearing fruit?
 4. Epaphras was the person through whom the Colossians heard the Gospel. Who has been an “Epaphras” in your life—someone God used to help you understand or experience the Gospel?
-

3. Remembering What God Has Done Should Change How We Live -Read Colossians 1:9–14

1. In what ways should reading Paul's prayer for other believers influence the way we pray for one another? What do you recognize about the result of Paul's prayer?
2. Paul mentions **bearing fruit, growing in knowledge, endurance, and patience**. Which of these seems easiest for you? Which is more difficult?
3. Why do you think Paul moves from talking about how Christians should live to reminding them of what God has already done?

4. How might remembering that you have been qualified, rescued, and redeemed affect the way you respond when you feel inadequate, stuck in your past, or overwhelmed by your circumstances?
-

Pray together

NEXT MEETING:

When and where will we meet?

As a way to share responsibility for our group, who will champion these area of our group?

- Rotation of people to Facilitate Group Discussion (who will take next meeting?)
- Prayer requests
- Food or Snacks
- Group Service Project
- Manage our group calendar
- Plan for childcare
- Other?

(Optional) Additional Discussion:

Where do you most naturally look for your sense of identity or significance? How might remembering that your identity is ultimately found “in Christ” change that?

If someone observed your life for the past month, what evidence might they see that the Gospel is bearing fruit in you?

Is there an area of your life right now where you need more endurance (the ability to bear a difficult situation) or patience (the ability to bear with a difficult person)? What might it look like to depend on God's strength in that situation rather than simply trying harder?

What is one thing from Colossians 1:1-12, that you want to remember or practice this week?