

Week 3 (Week of October 11) — Colossians: Christ in You, the Hope of Glory

If you haven't yet: 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 have worked really hard for that was worth the effort? What made it worth it?

1. Jesus Is With Us in Our Suffering: Read Colossians 1:24–25 together

1. Paul says that he rejoices in his suffering for the sake of others. Practically, what do you think this looks like for Paul? How would having Paul's outlook change the way you live?
2. Paul describes himself as a servant who has been given responsibility by God. What does this tell us about how Paul viewed his role and the purpose of his life?
3. In what ways might Paul's example influence the way you live? Where might following Jesus require something of you that is difficult or costly?

2. The Mystery Has Been Revealed: Read Colossians 1:26–27 together

1. What is significant about the way Paul describes the Gospel as a "mystery" that was hidden for generations but has now been revealed.
2. Paul says this message is for everyone, including the Gentiles. Why do you think this would have been such significant news for the Colossians?
3. Paul summarizes the mystery with the words "Christ in you, the hope of glory." How might knowing that Christ is with you—and that your future is secure in Him—change the way you face life today?

3. Striving Toward Maturity: Read Colossians 1:28–29 together

1. What three things does Paul describe doing in order to help people grow toward maturity in Christ? What do you think each one looks like in a healthy Christian community?
2. Paul says his goal is to "present everyone fully mature in Christ." What do you think spiritual maturity looks like? What are some signs that someone is growing to become more like Jesus?
3. Paul says he "strenuously contends" while relying on "all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me." What does this teach us about the balance between our effort and God's power in spiritual growth?

Pray Together

Consider praying for one another in light of Colossians 1:24–29:

- Anyone experiencing suffering or difficulty
- Anyone that needs strength to persevere
- For opportunities to proclaim Jesus through words and actions
- For growth toward maturity in Christ
- For the people God has placed around each person who need to experience His love

NEXT MEETING: When and where will we meet?

As a way to share responsibility for our group, who will champion these areas 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

Have you ever experienced a difficult season that ultimately strengthened your faith or helped someone else? What did God teach you through it?

What does it mean to you personally that “Christ in you” is described as the “hope of glory”?

Who is someone in your life that God may be calling you to encourage, pray for, teach, or patiently walk alongside as they grow toward maturity in Christ?

Paul describes himself as a servant entrusted with something God had given him. What do you think God has entrusted to you—people, opportunities, gifts, resources, experiences, or influence—that you could use to help others know and follow Jesus?

Where are you tempted to rely on your own strength rather than the “energy Christ so powerfully works” in you?

What is one thing from Colossians 1:24–29 that you want to remember or practice this week?