Week 6 (Week of November 1) — Colossians: Recalibrating Our Lives Around Jesus

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 in your life that has needed to be adjusted or recalibrated to work the way it was designed to?

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1. Set Your Hearts and Minds on Things Above: Read Colossians 3:1–4

1. Paul tells us to set our hearts and minds on things above. What do you think it means to do this in everyday life?
2. How might regularly focusing on what Jesus loves and values shape the way we see God, ourselves, and the world around us?
3. Paul reminds us that our lives are hidden with Christ in God and that one day we will appear with Him in glory. How does knowing who you are in Christ give you confidence to keep pursuing Him, even when you don't always see the changes He is making in you?

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2. Put to Death Your Earthly Nature: Read Colossians 3:5–7

1. Paul names several behaviors that are inconsistent with our new life in Christ. What do these things have in common? Why do you think he calls us to put them to death rather than simply manage or control them?
2. Paul describes greed as idolatry. How can the desire for more—whether money, possessions, or something else—become a form of putting something ahead of God?
3. Because we have new life in Jesus, Paul calls us to bring every area of our lives under His authority. What might this look like in the way we approach our desires, relationships, and finances?

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3. Take Off the Old Self: Read Colossians 3:8–11

1. Paul shifts from behaviors involving our desires to behaviors that affect our relationships, including anger, slander, and lying. Which of these do you think is especially easy for people to excuse or overlook?
2. Paul says we have taken off our old self and put on the new self. How does remembering who you are in Christ change the way you approach habits or behaviors that need to change?
3. Where have you noticed God gradually changing your attitudes, reactions, or behavior over time? What helped you recognize that change?

Pray Together

As we pray, ask God to continue recalibrating our hearts and minds around Jesus.

- For a growing desire to seek the things Jesus loves and values
- For wisdom and courage to recognize and put away habits that are not consistent with our new life in Christ
- For freedom from greed, selfishness, anger, and the ways we hurt others
- For patience and encouragement as God continues changing us over time
- For our group to become a community where people are valued equally and Christ is at the center

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

What tends to compete for your attention and affection with Jesus? What makes it difficult to keep your heart and mind focused on Him?

How do you distinguish between enjoying the good things God has given you and becoming overly attached to them?

Why do you think greed can be harder to recognize in ourselves than some of the other behaviors Paul mentions?

Are there ways your words or reactions toward others need to better reflect your new life in Christ?

Have you ever looked back and realized God had changed something in you without you even noticing it at the time? What was that like?

What is one area of your life where you sense God may be inviting you to become more centered on Jesus this week?