

LifeGroup Discussion Guide

August 7, 2022

TALK

Start a conversation with your group.

- When you make a tough decision, do you make your decision based on what is right OR what feels right? Are you a thinker or a feeler?
- What is the biggest challenge facing the next generation?

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 2:8-23

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. 11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. 18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. 19 They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

20 Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: 21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? 22 These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Acts 17:11

11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

1 Timothy 4:1

1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

2 Peter 2:1-3

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

John 1:14

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Revelation 22:18

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll.

SHARING

- From Colossians 2:6-15, list the actions of God done *for us* or *in us*. What do you learn about God through this text?
- How has Jesus stripped spiritual forces of ultimate power? How do we participate in Christ's victory?
- How can the knowledge of complete forgiveness help us live in freedom?
- Which phrases in this passage talk about the results of being raised with Christ? What are the effects of the resurrection in this life and in the future?
- How do we experience the fullness of who Jesus is in our own lives? How can we lean into and abide in His fullness?
- What are some 'dead' or 'hopeless' situations right now where you want to see God's power at work?
- How does the gospel of forgiveness and new life motivate you toward maturity in Christ? How do we practically live in light of the cross and the resurrection?
- How do false teachers entice others? What are things of this world that appeal to you most? Are there areas where you are following these desires more than Christ?
- How can we guard from false teaching? Where can you apply God's truth to your life today? Are you allowing other, mature Christians to speak truth into your life?

APPLICATION

Commit to a step and live it out this week. Here are some examples:

- Write down temptations/distractions that are hindering you from growing deeper roots in Christ and then write down ways in which you will take those roots deeper to maturity this week.
- Think about where you get wisdom, knowledge, and truth from. Are there any sources that are not according to Christ and could be leading you away from the authority of the Word?
- Write down 2-3 areas in your life where you want to see God's resurrection power at work. Pray over those things.
- Join a LifeGroup to learn more about Jesus and how he calls us to live our life.

PRAYER

Father, forgive us for we do not always look to You and Your word for truth. Give us wisdom, understanding, and discernment as we encounter distortions of the truth. Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit who guides us into all truth and helps us discern all things, amen.