



LEADER'S NOTES

Colossians: Rescued. Redeemed. Rooted.

Week 9 - Jesus at the Center

QUESTION 1

Question one refamiliarizes your group with our scripture for the week. Enjoy it.

QUESTION 2

Question two takes your group deeper into Paul's three-word description of Christians. If you want to explore this concept further, you could compare these three words to marriage. That in the healthiest of marriages, both partners are chosen, seen as holy (because they have been forgiven), and dearly loved.

QUESTION 3

Question three remains in verse 12 and examines the five virtues listed there. The third prompt asks, "How do you think you can develop these qualities of Christ in your life?" You might respond that these virtues, like the fruit of the Spirit, will naturally appear as you seek God and are filled with the Spirit. Also, you might focus on one of them each week, praying specifically for that virtue to grow.

QUESTION 4

Question four deals with verse 13 and forgiveness. As the group leader, you may want to lead this question. Be sure to include a personal story of forgiveness.

QUESTION 5

Question five deals with verses 15 and 16. It asks your group to process together what it means to **let the peace of Christ rule in your heart**. You might remind your group that this is similar to what Jesus said in **John 14:1 Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me**. This verse links peace and trust in God. It also asks your group to discuss the role of gratitude in Colossians and in your life. Here are some thoughts to guide the discussion.

GRATITUDE IN COLOSSIANS

Paul links gratitude to several practical aspects of the Christian life, including interpersonal relationships, corporate worship, and daily conduct.

- *Promotes peace and unity:* In **Colossians 3:15**, Paul writes, "**Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...And be thankful**". Gratitude works in conjunction with peace to resolve personal and corporate friction, since it is difficult to complain about others when you are focused on God's generosity.
- *Deepens worship:* The church's corporate worship, through "**psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs**," is commanded to be done "**with gratitude in your hearts to God**" (**Colossians 3:16**).
- *Guides all of life:* In **Colossians 3:17**, Paul gives the encompassing principle for all of life: "**whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him**". This makes gratitude a constant state of awareness that should permeate every thought, word, and action.
- *Empowers prayer:* The letter concludes by reminding the Colossians to "**devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful**" (**Colossians 4:2**). A thankful heart keeps prayer from becoming a list of self-centered demands and centers it on God's goodness.