

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Bigger on the Inside - Week of October 5

Introduction

Who is Jesus Christ to you? As you read aloud from the first chapter of Colossians, hear the apostle Paul describes the Christ of God. Though Paul had not met these new believers in Colossae personally (Colossians 2:1) he still wanted them to grow to full maturity in their faith in Christ. As you read/listen, consider the power and place of authority that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has in the heavenly realm. Then, envision his majesty juxtaposed to where Christ ranks in your day-to-day schedule and priorities. Be honest. After listening and reflecting for a few moments, briefly share at least 1-2 new takeaways that stand out to you from the following verses.

Read Colossians 1:15-23

Thoughts? Do you know who Jesus Christ is? Do you know Him personally?

When Life Happens

Have the throes of life blinded you to the magnitude of who Jesus is? Life can consume our time and distract us, resulting in a slow drift from faith in Christ. Salvation is a gift, yes – and it is also a journey. The way to live into the gift is by walking *with* Christ each day. Though we are held secure in God's hand once we profess faith in Christ, our salvation is not static but dynamic – an ongoing, ever-unfolding work of beauty in the heart that is developed through practice. Salvation is a process. Be aware. There will be times a hectic schedule will pull at you and threaten to keep you from your personal time with the Lord, praying and reading/listening to Scripture. There will be some Sundays you think: "... It'll be okay if I miss church today ... or Life Group this week ... or my week to serve, even though I said I'd be there." There will be times you either forget to tithe or outright refuse to put God first in your finances. These are times you must be wary and ask God for strength. The writer of Hebrews says:

"Therefore, we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it" (Hebrews 2:1).

Discussion:

- You don't have to do anything to drift. In fact, if you do nothing – count on it – you will drift. Think of a time you experienced *life* hitting hard ... out of nowhere comes sickness, misdirected anger, unexplained pain, financial turmoil, job loss, family trouble, or sick loved one with special needs that require time and energy. Speak briefly to how such outside circumstances can distract us from our commitment to Christ causing us to drift.
- Maybe you have experienced a time when the lure of this life, wealth-building, a desire for title and position at work, or trying to project and maintain status among a circle of 'friends' pulled you into a season of complacency and indifference. How can we be aware and combat such landmines of the faith?

Notice Jesus' words regarding the Seed of God's Word when it falls among thorns –

"Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain ... these are the ones who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing" (Mark 4:7, 18b-19).

Consider

If we want to enjoy life to the fullest *and* bear fruit for the Kingdom, the wise thing to do is to establish spiritual markers to "fight the drift". A life filled with the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23)). And the overflow of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in such a life committed to Christ is other people brought to faith in the Lord Jesus! Fully devoted followers of Christ must "... wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!" (Jesus' words in John 4:35b-36).

As members of the Body of Christ, Jesus is our life-source and he expects us to remain in him. He said: "... I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing ... When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father" (John 15:5,8). The Lord goes on to tell us how to remain in him: "When you obey my

commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you" (John 15:10-12).

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Discussion:

- On behalf of Christ Church or the community (i.e. one of our strategic partners), where do you currently serve?
- What do you see as your passions and gifts? What do you enjoy doing? What gives you joy and fuels energy as you serve?
- Life Group participants, what gifts/talents do you see in each other? Take a few minutes and share at least one gift you recognize in your brothers and sisters around the circle.
- Do you feel you are currently using your talents and gifts for the Lord? If not, how might you serve moving forward?

Close by reading aloud **1 Corinthians 12:20-27** and praying for one another. Pray also for the Joshua Celebration – that the coming year will be a time of joyfully serving the Lord together.

One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

October 5: Jeremiah 4:19-6:15, Colossians 1:18-2:7, Psalm 77:1-20, Proverbs 24:23-25
October 6: Jeremiah 6:16-8:7, Colossians 2:8-23, Psalm 78:1-31, Proverbs 24:26
October 7: Jeremiah 8:8-9:26, Colossians 3:1-17, Psalm 78:32-55, Proverbs 24:27
October 8: Jeremiah 10:1-11:23, Colossians 3:18-4:18, Psalm 78:56-72, Prov. 24:28-29
October 9: Jeremiah 12:1-14:10, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2:8, Psalm 79:1-13, Prov. 24:30-34
October 10: Jeremiah 14:11-16:15, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-3:13, Psalm 80:1-19, Prov. 25:1-5
October 11: Jeremiah 16:16-18:23, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:3, Psalm 81:1-16, Prov. 25:6-8

BIGGER on the INSIDE

Text: Hebrews 2:1, Colossians 1:18-23,
1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12, 20-26

PLAIN TRUTH

Activating spiritual _____ in our
_____ gives us _____!

1. Establish Spiritual _____ to "_____ the _____".
2. Christ is the anchor of our faith.
3. You're built to _____, and each part of the body is _____.



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October 5, 2025