

Growth Group Guide

Connect

- If you had the opportunity to memorize or reflect on Colossians 1:13-14 over the last week or two (see Growth Group Guide #1), what did you take away from those two verses?
- From memory (without looking!), and together as a group, briefly recreate the accounts of creation and mankind's fall from Genesis 1-3.

Read

- Read aloud Colossians 1:15-23 a couple times.
- As you read/listen, jot down a couple key observations.

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Engage

Discuss these questions:

- Verse 15 says that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. Based on vv 15-23, what can we know about God by looking at Jesus? What is God like? What qualities are evident in this passage?
- What is the place of Christ in creation? In the world? In the church? In the seen and unseen realms?
- Verse 19 says that "in Him (Christ) all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell." Paul makes a similar statement in 2:9. Share some thoughts on the significance of this statement.
- How does Paul describe Christ's role as reconciler? What are the results of Christ's work of reconciliation?
- What is the admonition given in v 23?

Respond

Take a moment to reflect on and share about these questions:

- From this passage, describe both the deity and the humanity of Jesus. How does this passage highlight His deity? How does it highlight His humanity?
- Explain the connection between this passage and the Genesis 1 creation account. (Hint: think Christ's role as creator.)
- Explain the connection between this passage and the Genesis 3 fall of mankind account. (Hint: think Christ's role as reconciler.)

Growth Groups at CBC are a key pathway toward making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Growth Groups include...

Word: Studying, understanding, and applying the Bible.

Walk: Praying, caring, serving, and connecting with others.

Witness: Intentionally reaching out to the world around us.

Worship: Fostering growth in knowledge, faith, love, service, obedience, and maturity.

This guide incorporates these elements in conjunction with the current preaching series. Intended for use by Growth Groups that meet every two weeks, but can be easily modified for other uses.

- Bring the reconciliation work of Jesus into very personal terms. How are you personally affected by Christ's role of reconciler? What does it mean for you, your family, your friends, etc.?
- Summarize vv 15-23 in two sentences. Share your summary.

Dig

Over the next several days, take some time on your own to dig a little deeper:

- Meditate on and memorize Colossians 1:19-20.
- Read vv 21-23, inserting your name in the place of "you." Write this out on paper. Think about it. Talk to God about it. Consider its application.
- Develop an argument supporting the deity of Christ and His role as reconciler. Refer to Colossians 1:15-23 and to other passages as necessary. Write out your position.
- Consider this issue if you like: Some might say that the idea of Christ as "firstborn" in v 15 suggests that He was a created being and not God. What does the immediate context in vv 15-20 indicate about this? What do other passages about the nature of Jesus indicate about this (consider, for example: Matthew 1:23, John 1:1-3 and 14, John 5:17-18, John 10:30-33, Philippians 2:5-7, Titus 2:13)? The Bible uses the word "firstborn" for those who have been born first *and* for those who have prominence in rank or importance (consider, for example, Genesis 27:32 vs. Exodus 4:22 and Psalm 89:27). Based on this brief study, how would you explain how the word "firstborn" is used in relation to Christ?

Go

- That the fullness of God dwelt in Jesus Christ and that He is reconciler of all things is GOOD NEWS! Practice sharing this news a couple times with your spouse, your child, or a friend. Pray and look for an opportunity to talk about this with someone as you go about your week.

Pray

- Take some time to pray together for each other's needs and concerns.
- Take some time to pray for opportunities to share the Good News with unsaved/unchurched family, friends, and neighbors.

Care

- Is there a specific need among the group that you can help care for? How can you help?
- Make a point to connect with and encourage one or more of your group members between now and the next meeting.

Plan

Next group meeting will be at (place) _____ on
(date/time) _____.

