

## Growth Group Guide

### Connect

- If you had the chance to meditate on or memorize Col 1:19-20 (see Growth Group Guide #2) since last meeting, share a personal reflection or something you learned about Christ's work as reconciler.
- Has anyone ever "struggled" on your behalf to help you know and follow Christ? Or, have you ever "struggled" on someone else's behalf for this reason? What did the struggle look like?

### Read

- Read aloud Colossians 1:24-2:7 a couple times.
- As you read/listen, jot down a couple key observations.

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### Engage

- In this passage, Paul reveals some of the goals of his ministry. What are they?
- Paul describes how he ministers in order to pursue the goals. How does Paul describe his work in ministry?
- How might you describe Paul's perspective on suffering in ministry?
- Paul wants to "present everyone mature in Christ." What are some characteristics of a person who is mature in Christ? Consider other parts of Colossians as you answer this question.
- There is a thread running through this passage that sheds light on the Colossians' relationship with Christ. What are some statements in this passage that describe their relationship to Christ?

### Respond

- The intentional work to "present everyone mature in Christ" can simply be called discipleship. How are you engaged in a discipleship ministry—either as a disciple or disciple maker? Who is investing in you to move you toward maturity in Christ? Whom are you investing in? How?
- Paul says in 2:6-7 to "walk in Him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." Consider this command. How would you evaluate your life in light of this command?

**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.

- Paul touches on our relationship to Christ several times in 1:24-2:7. Based on these verses, what is your response to Paul’s comments regarding your relationship with or position in Christ? What thoughts/ideas/emotions do these comments elicit?

**Go**

Consider your response beyond this group discussion:

- How does this Growth Group support the work of “presenting everyone mature in Christ”? How do you or could you contribute to the progress of your Growth Group?
- In addition to your Growth Group, is there a way/place where you might consider engaging in the ministry of discipleship? What next steps might you need to take? What training might you need? What can CBC do to help you move forward?
- The last couple Growth Group Guides have encouraged you to pray for and look for opportunities to share the Good News with people. How has this been going? Continue to pursue people in your sphere of influence with the Gospel.

**Dig**

Over the next several days, consider these items:

- Memorize and meditate on Colossians 2:6-7. Consider and talk with God about your response to this command.
- Paul says that he rejoices in his sufferings for the sake of the Colossians. Paul knows about suffering for the Gospel. Take a moment and read 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 to see Paul’s description of some of the trials he experienced.
- “Christ in you (is) the hope of glory” (Col 1:27). Prayerfully reflect on this statement. Christ’s home is in you, and this fact is our hope of glory. Consider other passages such as Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Colossians 3:4, 1 Peter 1:3-5.

**Pray**

- Take some time to pray together for each other’s needs and concerns. Also, pray for each other as you continue toward maturity in Christ.
- Take some time to pray for the work of discipleship at CBC and the various ministries that support discipleship.
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

on \_\_\_\_\_.

