**Colossians: Jesus Over Everything**

August 27 – Colossians 2:1-5 | Group Discussion Guide

**Begin with silence and prayer (5-10 minutes).**

*Begin your time together in silence. In your silence, acknowledge that the Lord God, the Creator and Sustainer of everything and everyone, is worthy of all praise.*

After you have finished reading and sitting in silence, have someone in the group pray for your time together.

Spend a few moments reciting your memory verse from last week: **Colossians 1:28**.

**Split into smaller groups to read Scripture and discuss (15 minutes).**

* Take a few minutes and read Colossians 2:1-5.
* Once you’ve finished reading, answer the following questions:

Verses 1-2:

1. What was the struggle Paul had for the people of Colossae and Laodicea?
2. What is Paul’s invitation to the Colossian and Laodicean believers here?
3. For what purpose are the believers to be united in love?

Verses 3-5:

1. What assurance is Paul offering the readers?
2. How does Paul describe the lure of false teachings?
3. What is Paul saying about the Colossian believers when he describes their *order* and *firmness of faith*?
* Once you’ve finished with these questions, spend one minute reflecting on your conversation. Is there anything that’s sticking with you from God’s word?

**Come back together as a large group to talk about the sermon (30 minutes).**

* What is something related to your faith you “contend” for?
* Like the early Christians, we are confronted with competing messages that aim to draw us away from the true message of Christ. What are some of those false teachings? Which do you feel you are susceptible to?
* What does it look like to combat heresy while being *united in love?* Can you give an example of when you have seen this done well?
* In verses 2-3, Paul encourages the believers to rest assured because Jesus is the source of all wisdom and knowledge. How assured are you that all wisdom and knowledge is found in Jesus? In what areas of your life do you need to deepen your trust in him?
* What is required in order for you to maintain firm faith?
* What is a next step in obedience for you as a result of today’s discussion?

**Spend time memorizing Scripture (10 minutes).**

Take a few minutes to break apart and challenge your group to begin memorizing Colossians 2:2-3.

**Finish with logistics and prayer (10 minutes).**

1. Make sure to inform your group about the study devotionals available to help you walk through the text of Colossians! You can find that material online at thecreek.org/devotionals.
2. Also, be sure to challenge your group to memorize the verses for this week: Colossians 2:2-3.You’ll be asked next week to recite them in group!
3. Finish your group session with prayer. Break into triads to end the night with prayer for one another. In the groups, have people share “What is on your heart that you need prayer for?” and then spend time praying.