When the Person, Power and Presence of the Living Christ collides with an ordinary man or woman, life becomes altered, destinies become changed and nothing is ever the same again.

Are you ready to COLLIDE with Christ?

“In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, Who is the Head over every power and authority.”
~Colossians 2:9-10

A study in Paul’s Letter to the Colossian Church
Written by: Doug Rowse
Corrie ten Boom survived Nazi Germany. Her autobiography, “The Hiding Place” inspired millions. This dear saint says, “Don’t pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with God and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees.”

Many people wish they could develop a daily time alone with God. Many wish they could hear God’s voice. Many wish they could feel God’s presence with them during the day. My friend, your time of wishing has come to an end! God is more eager to meet with you than you are with Him. Most people only give God a moving target. They never sit still long enough for God to meet them. Here are a few pointers for how you can maximize the benefit of this Christ Collision experience in your life.

#1 Find a good spot. Do you have a favorite chair, or a bench in your garden? Make sure your spot is a place you can enjoy each day. Plan to meet God there.

#2 Find a good time. Are you a morning person? A night owl? Whenever your mind is the clearest and you can concentrate, set aside that time for God. Give Him your best time. Also, make sure it is a time when you are free from distractions.

#3 Plan to spend some time. Whether it’s 10 minutes or an hour, you will need actual time. Meeting God on the run is not very effective if your goal is to hear from Him.

#4 Have scratch paper ready. When you sit down to meet with God, your mind is going to race. You will be flooded with things you must do. So, off load those worries by jotting them down as they come to you. It only takes a few seconds, and then you can get right back to your time with God. This will enable you to stay focused.

#5 Pray. God wants to meet with you. Ask Him to reveal Himself to you. Ask Him to give you ears to hear Him and eyes to see Him.

#6 Don’t expect sparks to fly all the time. You will not have a mountain top encounter every day. Most days are normal. But occasionally, God will break through, and when He does, watch out, it’s awesome!
collision.  kəˈliZHən/ noun

1. an instance of one moving object or person striking violently against another.

Several years ago I was T-boned at an intersection while driving. We owned a small Toyota at the time, which did not stand a chance against the monster truck that plowed into me. Needless to say, the truck won! That one collision altered many things about my life. For starters, the car was totaled, so we needed to get another ride. And, I received numerous cuts on my head, many of which required stitches. Scars still evident are constant reminders of that moment.

Any time a collision occurs, somebody gets changed. It is impossible to meet Jesus Christ and walk away the same. His glory is too great. His demeanor is too gracious. His Presence is too overwhelming. The Apostle John was one of Jesus’ best friends while on earth. Yet, when he saw Jesus, John said, “I fell at His feet as though dead.” (Revelation 1:17)

Everyone needs an encounter with Jesus like this. What often happens is that sometime after we meet Jesus, religion sneaks into our thinking. What began as a life changing encounter with the Living Christ becomes something else we have to try and do. It ceases to be about meeting Jesus and it becomes about “trying to read my Bible more”, or “trying to pray more”. Many innocent people fall into this deadly trap and it sucks the life out of them. Can you remember when you first collided with Jesus? Did you “try” to make that happen? Of course not! You were the little Toyota and He, the monster truck. The Almighty One ambushed the tiny one and there was nothing you could do but get hit by His mercy and grace!

So how does a relationship that began as a collision downgrade into something you have to try harder to do? The goal of this study in Colossians is not to give you another notebook filled with nice thoughts. Our goal is to reignite the fire that was first lit when His flame contacted the tinder in your heart.

Our format is straightforward. Each weekend in our celebrations we will have a teaching from the Letter to the Colossians. Each day that follows, there will be a brief opportunity for you to encounter Christ by interacting with Him in His Word. Each week, your Life Group will take it deeper, giving you the chance to interact with others who are also colliding with Christ. Our goal is that by the time Thanksgiving arrives, we will have each collided with Christ in a way that ignites a fresh passion for Him and His purposes.

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Sin doesn’t stand a chance when it comes into contact with Jesus. Like a snowball in the sun, our sin literally collapses in the presence of the Holy One. The beautiful thing about a collision with Christ is that though it may break us into a thousand pieces, it makes us whole.

Jesus is holy, which means that anyone who comes into contact with Him also becomes holy. When He touched a leper, He did not become leprous, the leper became whole. When He touched the dead, He did not die, the dead came alive. When He collides with you, He does not become like you, you become like Him!

As you begin this collision with Christ the first thing to go is your sin nature. Like a skillful surgeon, your Savior will cut away anything that does not belong until all that remains is holy.

Let the crash begin!

“In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, Who is the Head over every power and authority.”

—Colossians 2:9-10
Sin stinks. Sin stains. Satan is totally dirty. He tempts us to sin by promising it will be good, and then when we fall, he shames us for doing the very thing he enticed us to do! It’s pretty creepy of him, don’t you agree?

In the Old Testament, whenever something that was holy touched something that was dirty, the holy became “unclean”. Their religious law stated, “If a person touches anything ceremonially unclean... even though he is unaware of it, he has become unclean and is guilty.” (Leviticus 5:2) The frightening truth is that a person can become unclean without even knowing it!

When Jesus walked this planet, any unclean thing that He touched became instantly clean. Lepers were made whole, dead were raised, sick were healed and sinners became saints. This is why the Apostle Paul could begin his letter to the Colossians by addressing them as “holy and faithful brothers in Christ.” Jesus had touched them. They were no longer sinners. They were holy saints.

The same is true of you, dear one. In Christ, you are holy. You are no longer unclean because you have come into contact with Jesus.

**Something to pray about:**

“Oh conquering King, conquer my heart. Ocean of grace, come flood my soul, cleanse my sin, make me whole.”

If you were to live as a holy man or woman today, what would that look like?

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Tuesday, September 30

“For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13-14)

The Pacific Viperfish is one critter whom you would never want to meet. Nor is it even possible for you to do so. He is only 8 inches long but his teeth are so large that he cannot close his mouth. He trolls the depths of the ocean at 13,000 feet below the surface, luring prey with bioluminescent photophores on his belly. Living at such depths means he is completely in the dark. Surrounded by utter blackness, he "sees" through other means. The darkness has become such a home for him that he doesn’t even think of it as darkness.

Many people are like this. Darkness has been such a way of life that their eyes have become blinded by it. They are in darkness so they do not see it as darkness.

Then we read, “Jesus rescued us...” Have you ever thought of yourself as being “rescued”? It means that you were once in that darkness. You were one time blinded by your own shadows. You were the drowning man without a life raft. You were the convict with no lawyer. Then Jesus collided into your dark world. He shone a light and showed you a better way. He rescued you by first highlighting your need.

Something to pray about:

You are my daily Bread. I am desperate for You. Like water in a dry and thirsty land, You have come and satisfied my parched soul. You rescued me. I had no other options. All was lost. Now that I know You, I still have no other options because what can possibly compare to knowing You?

Being rescued has two aspects: 1) we are always rescued FROM something. And, 2) we are always rescued TO something. Take a few minutes and make a list of what you were rescued from and what you were rescued to, when Jesus collided with your life.

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Wednesday, October 1

“For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13-14)

The word “kingdom” is technically two words that run together. It is short for the “King’s Domain”. Jesus has a kingdom. That means Jesus is a King. This is good for anyone living in His domain because He is powerful, benevolent, generous, wise, just and so much more. The kingdom is always a reflection of the king who rules it. A poorly managed kingdom filled with rampant poverty and disease can only mean there is a king who is not doing his job.

When the Queen of Sheba visited King Solomon she breathlessly proclaimed, “How happy your men must be! How happy your officials who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!” (I Kings 10:8) If this was the response of those who lived under King Solomon’s wisdom, how much greater is the joy experienced by those of us who live in the Kingdom of Jesus!

Consider this: In Luke 13:32 Jesus makes this shocking statement, “Do not be afraid little flock. For your Father has been pleased to give you the Kingdom.” Not only is Jesus a King who rules a kingdom, and not only do we get to be part of His magnificent kingdom, God has given us ownership in that kingdom! So, when the Bible says that Jesus is “King of kings and Lord of lords” that is a reference to us! We are the kings and lords of which Jesus is the ultimate.

Something to pray about:

You are my King. I honor You. The benefits I enjoy as a loyal subject in Your kingdom are awesome. Jesus, it was Your death and resurrection that opened the way for me to enjoy these blessings. Thank you!

Consider this: A kingdom is a reflection of its King. In your experience, how is the Kingdom of God as you know it, a reflection of its Almighty King?

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Onesimus was a first century slave who ran away from his master. In his escape, he crossed paths with the Apostle Paul who led him to faith in Christ. Onesimus felt convicted by the Holy Spirit that he should make a return to his master. The Apostle Paul penned a letter of recommendation for him to help smooth things over. We call that letter, the New Testament Book of Philemon. (It's a real short book, so go ahead and read it.) What’s interesting here is that the name “Onesimus” means “useless”. Can you imagine being given such a name? Perhaps you can. It may not be the name given to you at birth, but it may be a label you have adopted over the years. Enough failures, enough flubs, and one can easily begin to see themselves as onesimus, “useless”.

The beauty of his story is that after Jesus collided into his life, this once useless slave had become the Apostle Paul’s right hand man. Only Jesus can redeem a life once wrecked by poor choices.

Redemption is such a cool concept! It means we take an item of lesser value and redeem it for something of greater value. Let’s say I have a coke bottle. It is empty. It is garbage. However, I can redeem that bottle for a nickel, literally turning trash into a treasure.

“We have redemption” means that God has noticed intrinsic value in us. Our lives, sullied with sin, bruised by our own bad behavior, appear to have no value beyond this earth. We are the runaway slave. Then Jesus steps in and declares, “I redeem you!” Jesus literally turned our trash into a treasure. The first step to redeeming us was for Jesus to forgive us of our sin. He removed your sin so you could find your worth.

Something to pray about:

Jesus, you are more precious than silver, and in you I am more precious than silver as well. I am so glad my failures are not fatal and my failings are not final. Thank you for redeeming me!

What part of my life is better because Jesus is in it?
Friday, October 3

“...and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in Heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.” (Colossians 1:20)

In 1962, Don and Carol Richardson were serving as missionaries amongst the Sawi tribes of Irian Jaya, Indonesia. These three tribes had for years been locked in bloody feuding and were constantly battling one another. The Richardsons tried to communicate the gospel to them but to no avail. Finally, they decided the situation had become so dangerous they had to leave the region. Not wanting the missionaries to leave, the three tribes worked out an agreement using what they called a “Peace Child”.

For this, each tribe offered to the other a baby. As long as this child was kept safe by the other tribe, there would be peace. The obvious connection was not missed by Don Richardson. Jesus Christ is God’s peace child! God gave His only Son to this world so that we would be reconciled with Him!

Jesus was so willing to restore you to God that He died to make it happen. He made peace through His blood. Peace is not the absence of conflict it is the presence of One greater than the conflict.

The word “reconcile” literally means “to bring back together”. Our sin cut us off from God, severing any hope of a right relationship. God sent His peace child to earth and reconciled us to Himself. You can always tell the value of something by the price that someone is willing to pay for it. God valued a relationship with you so much that He gave up His own Son to get it. (By the way, if you want to read the whole “Peace Child” story, simply Google it. You can find a free .pdf version of it online.)

Something to pray about:

God, thank you for sending Jesus to reconcile me to yourself. I don’t feel worthy of such a gift, but am eternally grateful for it.

If there was ever a relationship that had irreconcilable differences, it was the one between you and God. Yet Jesus bridged that gap. His collision brought reconciliation. Is there anyone with whom you need to reconcile?

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now He has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body…”

(Colossians 1:21-22)

Can a collision really create a friendship? We were alienated, we were enemies, but then Christ slammed into our lives and forever changed our destiny. In physics, they call it “force”. Force is something that causes a change in the motion of an object. Sir Isaac Newton formulized it by saying force is equal to the mass of the object multiplied by its acceleration. \((F=ma)\)

Consider this: You were sliding in a direction that was certain to end in hell. The momentum built, hell was coming closer and closer, then…WHAM! An object greater than yourself (Jesus) hit you with such gracious violence that your life was knocked back onto a heavenward course.

If you were alienated before the collision, what are you, after the collision?
If you were an enemy before the collision, what are you, after the collision?

The Apostle Paul says you are “now reconciled”. Jesus put you back on a good road with a great destination. Everything that was wrong has now been made right. Everything that was off kilter, has now been knocked back on. Jesus literally changed the course of your life. Your best days are ahead!

Something to pray about:

You have made right all that was wrong, for this I thank you Jesus. Thank You for the hope You purchased for me on the cross. I shutter to think that I was an actual enemy of Yours! I am now so thankful to be counted among Your friends.

Take a moment and remember the first time Jesus Christ introduced Himself to you. Can you remember a sense of awe and wonder? Now take a look at the following scriptures when God invaded a person’s life. (Jeremiah 1:4-10, Ezekiel 1:1-28, Revelation 1:12-18)
Are there any similarities between your experience and theirs? How so?

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Sunday, October 5

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father.” (Colossians 1:2b)

Today is Sunday. Many first century Christians dubbed it “The Lord’s Day” (Revelation 1:10) because it was the day Jesus rose from the dead. It’s a deserving title, befitting One who died for humanity and then kicked death in the teeth by rising again.

During this time, when we as a church are pressing in closer to Jesus, I would like to take the Sunday portions, to offer worship to our Great King.

“Grace and Peace” became a popular way for early preachers like the Apostle Paul to address their friends. If you think about it, one cannot be enjoyed without the other. Grace leads to peace and peace simply cannot be had without grace. And both are yours through Jesus Christ.

Using “Grace” as an acronym, what are five things you love about Jesus?

G.
R.
A.
C.
E.

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Jesus is not into hit and runs. He wants to be known. That’s why He came to earth. A collision with Christ is just the beginning of an eternal relationship.

Your perception of Jesus determines everything about how you relate with Him. The Bible says, “the gospel is the power of God to everyone who believes.” (Romans 1:16) If you believe in a lie, it cannot do you any good. So it is imperative that we gain a proper understanding of Jesus Christ.

Many fruity ideas about Jesus’ Person get proposed every day. Is He a good teacher? A prophet? Is He a religious icon? Is He Savior of all? Is He Savior of some? What or who is Jesus Christ of Nazareth?

Thankfully, Paul’s letter to the Colossians clears up these questions and retorts with a resounding declaration: Jesus is GOD.

“In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, Who is the Head over every power and authority.” ~Colossians 2:9-10
Monday, October 6

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”
(Colossians 1:15)

Being smart does not make one right. We are told to “Love God with all our minds” because a mind that is not in love with God is prone to great error.

The Colossian Christians faced a dangerous foe. The enemy was not physical. It was philosophical. In the first century, skeptics did not question the divinity of Jesus Christ. They questioned His humanity! (Nowadays it is the exact opposite.) Heretics had infiltrated the church and begun to spread false ideas that Jesus was God but He really did not have a physical body. Rather, His physical appearance was more like a mirage. They reasoned that since evil resides in the flesh, God would not possibly take on flesh. So He merely looked like He had a body.

This false doctrine undermines the gospel. How can Jesus forgive our sins and heal our diseases if He was only a hologram? His death would not even be real, which would mean His resurrection was incomplete. Our hope would be lost!

The word “image” is translated from the Greek word “icon”. This carries two meanings, both of which are important for us. 1) It means “exact likeness”. To see Jesus is to see God. He is the exact likeness of God. 2) It means “manifestation”. Jesus is the manifestation of God. In short, He is literally “God in flesh”. (Thus, defeating the idea that Jesus was only a mirage.)

Something to pray about:

I believe in You Jesus. I believe You are real. I believe You became just like me in order to rescue me. I believe You are God. I believe that You were more than just an optical illusion. You were born of a virgin, You grew up, You worked, You sweat, You got hungry and thirsty and tired. You were tempted in every way like me, but You are without sin. I believe in You, Jesus!

Jesus had an actual body. As a Christian, how does this make a difference in your life today? How would your faith be different if Jesus was just a mirage as these false teachers taught in the Colossian church?

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Tuesday, October 7

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”
(Colossians 1:15)

This scripture is served to us in two parts. The first part has to do with Christ’s relationship to God. He is the “image of the invisible God”. The second part has to do with Christ’s relationship to the Universe. He is the “firstborn over all creation.” What does this mean?

In first century Roman households, the firstborn son was responsible for managing his father’s estate. It was assumed that this son would one day take over and run things. To be the firstborn was a ranking in the order of the household. Jesus is the Son, He is the image, and He is the firstborn, which means He is in charge of the Father’s “estate”. Jesus rules the Universe! He is supreme!

One thing this verse does NOT mean... it is NOT saying that Jesus was the first thing God created. There are a few modern heresies who teach this and they are very wrong. “Firstborn” does not imply that Jesus was born first. It is a way of saying that Jesus is supreme, Jesus ranks first, Jesus is in charge, Jesus rules.

Something to pray about:

Jesus, You rule over all creation which means You rule over me. You are such a good ruler! I appreciate Your faithful leadership in my life. I never question Your ability to lead, but my ability to follow is often questionable! Please, Good Shepherd, make me a good sheep, that I might follow where You lead.

Any area of your life that is out of whack is an area not yet under the faithful ruling of Jesus Christ. Will you give charge of it to Jesus this day?

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
“For in Him all things were created: things in Heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.” (Colossians 1:16)

We have to break this verse down a bit because there is a lot to chew on here!

“In Him” means that creation was within the sphere of Christ’s influence. It was in His “job description” as it were.

“Through Him” means that creation literally happened through Him. God the Father directed the work, but Jesus carried out the work.

“For Him” means that He did it for Himself. It was His own good pleasure that drove Him to create.

The phrase “all things” is used twice and it is literally the word “universe” which implies what you assume…all things means “ALL” things in both the physical universe as well as the spiritual universe. The words: “thrones, powers, rulers, authorities” refer to a hierarchy in the universe, over which Jesus sits on top. Jesus is not just a cog in the wheel. He holds the whole wheel together!

The Apostle Paul is poetically painting a picture for us that depicts the grandeur of Jesus Christ. Truly, Jesus is better than the best thought you could ever have of Him.

Something to pray about:

Jesus, I was made in You. I was made through You. I was made for You. The only way I can find rest is to rest in You. You are where I belong. I will never fit in anywhere until I fit into You. You are the vine and I am the branch.

Jesus sits above all things. Acts 7:49 says that the earth is His footstool. Is there anything troubling you today? If so, Jesus is above it. He can rule it, dominate it. Bring it to Him and lay it at His footstool in prayer.

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Thursday, October 9

“He is before all things and in Him all things hold together.” (Colossians 1:17)

Worry is a mild form of atheism. We worry because we forget that Jesus is in charge. We deny that He has the ability to hold our life together.

True, without Jesus the cosmos would be chaos. He holds all things together. On a grand scale this means that stars, planets and galaxies are kept in their proper places by Jesus. On a personal level, it means my very life is held in His strong hands. So worry has no place in the heart of a Christian.

Sometimes life appears chaotic doesn’t it? You watch the news, or hear painful stories of crises, loved ones dying, one can easily get the impression that our world is spinning out of control. Many days it looks like the devil is winning the war. However, that is not true. Our world is held in the hands of Jesus. Any chaos has a limit to it, a cap. Chaos may appear to rule temporarily, but Jesus rules eternally. For this, we can be confidently joyful!

Something to pray about:

I am so glad that You hold all things in Your hands Jesus! This means that I am also safely held in Your hands. It does my human heart good to know that You’ve got it under control. I refuse to worry. I refuse to fret. I choose confidence. I choose joy! You’ve got this!

What things do you typically worry about? The presence of worry indicates the presence of doubt. Doubt always births worry and fear. This is why the Bible says, “the joy of the Lord is our strength.” The way to defeat worry is to choose joy. Take that thing over which you have worried and entrust it to Jesus by declaring the truth that Jesus holds it together in His hands. And choose joy!

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Friday, October 10

“...so that in everything He might have supremacy.” (Colossians 1:18)

One of my favorite books has been the Guinness Book of World Records. It’s fun to read the statistics on the strongest man alive, or the fastest man alive, or the tallest man. Even the guy with the longest mustache was cool to read about! It would just be cool to be the best at something and make it into the world records.

Can you imagine waking up every single day as a winner? Many of us dream about it, few of us taste it. What is it like to be at the top of your game?

Jesus knows because Jesus always wins. Jesus always comes out on top. That is what this verse means when it says that He has “supremacy” in everything. There is literally not a moment when Jesus isn’t winning. Even on the cross, Jesus was winning. Especially rising from the grave, Jesus won!

*In Ephesians 1:22 it says, “God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church.”*

Did you catch that? Jesus wins FOR the church. Jesus is supreme and this is a good thing FOR the church. It’s a good thing for you. (If you belong to Jesus.)

Something to pray about:

When You win Jesus, I win. Thank You for being supreme! I will ride on Your successes today, claiming Your victories as my very own.

What victories has Jesus gained, which you can claim as your very own today? (Take a minute and jot down a list right here.)

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
People have been wrestling with the deity of Jesus since Jesus walked the earth. The Pharisees pinned Him to the cross with the accusation that He was a blasphemer. (since He equated Himself with God) One of the heresies influencing the Colossians said that Jesus was 50/50. He was 50% God and 50% man. So, Paul refutes that by saying here that “ALL God’s fullness dwells in Jesus”.

There are two key words in this statement, “fullness” and “dwells”. The word “fullness” means that Jesus was fully God AND fully man. He was not some half man/half God creature. He was fully God in a fully human body. The word “dwells” refers to a permanent dwelling, which means that Jesus has ALWAYS been fully God and He always will be fully God. He permanently lives this way.

Why is this so important? Your perspective of Jesus impacts everything about your faith. Our faith is called “Christ-ianity”. If Christ is removed from our faith, if the Christ of our faith is somehow less than God, our faith is weakened and useless. This is why the enemy so often attacks our faith on this very level. The moment your Savior is downgraded to just a “good teacher” or a religious icon, you have lost your hope of salvation.

The good news for you is that your Savior is a strong Savior. Your Savior is the God of the Universe who descended into your messy world in order to rescue your soul. He is the God who would rather go to hell for you than stay in Heaven without you.

Something to pray about:

What a great comfort to know that Jesus, You are completely God! This means you are worthy of my worship. It means that you are able to save me. It means that you are able to sustain me. I praise Your great name today!

“Jesus is fully God & fully man.” What are some specific ways that this benefits you? Take a moment to write them down here.

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Sunday, October 12

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” (Revelation 5:12)

Today is the Lord’s Day! It is the best day of the whole week. The Bible tells us that God gave us the Sabbath as a gift. (Mark 2:27) Do you see Sunday as a gift? God gives us one day to rest, one day to worship and fellowship. He gives us one day to set aside work duties and reflect on His goodness to us. And yet why do so many people fight against it? Isn’t rest a good thing?!

As you prepare your heart for this Lord’s Day, read through the above scripture multiple times. Each time you read it, emphasize a different word. Meditate on the meaning of that word. For example, what does it mean that we give Jesus “power”? Doesn’t He already have it?

Given all that you have experienced this week from your study in Colossians, why is Jesus “worthy”? Our English word “worship” actually comes from this word “worthy”. In the old English, “worship” was two words: “worth-ship”. It means that in our singing and our service and our praise, we are declaring the ultimate worth of Jesus Christ.

Something to pray about:

Jesus, You are worthy to receive all of the praise that I can possibly give, and more. How could I ever give You enough praise? Eternity is simply not long enough, but it’s all I have, so I am all Yours.

Every single day I fall in love with You again.
I lack the words to say, how I feel for You, my Friend.
The depth of love I have can only be expressed in the way I live.
Every single day with every single breath, I live for You.

Specifically, what will you give praise to Jesus for this day?

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
The immensity of Christ will always equal the immensity of your need. The Christian never acts alone. They may act as though they are alone, but they never act alone. Jesus promised, “I will be with you always.” Whether you feel it or not, it’s true. The One who has always known you will always be with you.

Thankfully, God’s ability to get through to us is greater than our ability to listen. So, He works continually to bring us to a place of total dependence on Him. He tirelessly works to show us that “Greater is He who is in you than He who is in the world.”

When Jesus collides with your weakness, you become strong. His power becomes your power. His ability becomes your ability. Your weakness is never a handicap. It is only an opportunity for Christ’s power to be seen in you.

You’re about to have a great week!

“In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, Who is the Head over every power and authority.”

~Colossians 2:9-10
Monday, October 13

“The gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.”

(Colossians 1:6)

In one of His parables, Jesus described the Kingdom of God as being like a seed. Once it is planted, the farmer waits. Miraculously, a few months later, up comes the plant with its fruit. (Mark 4:26-29) Drawing from this thought, Paul says that the gospel is like that seed. Once heard and understood, the gospel starts to bear fruit in our lives.

First, it must be heard. It’s possible to hear something and not really hear it. Right now, music is playing on the radio as I write this devotional, but I am not really hearing the songs. It’s more like background noise. Millions of people have heard the gospel but many have not taken the time to actually listen to it. To listen means you soak it in, consider its claims and make a decision about your response to them. Have you listened to the gospel?

Second, it must be truly understood. This does not mean you must know every detail of it in order to believe it. Understanding God’s grace means that you recognize salvation as a free gift to you. It’s not something you earn. It is something you receive. Jesus did not come to help you out. He came because you were hopelessly lost and He had to find you. You are not a good person whom Jesus recruited to be on His team. You were a rebel who needed to be reformed. A proper understanding of grace recognizes what you were when Jesus found you and it celebrates who you are as a result.

Something to pray about:

Jesus, without You I am forever lost. You found me and You rescued me. I am forever grateful that You did!

Let’s say you are in an elevator and someone asks you to explain the gospel. You have 30 seconds before the elevator opens. How would you explain the gospel in 30 seconds to this person?

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
“Being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience.” (Colossians 1:11)

Last year, our MOPS group met in the church lobby twice a month. One of the things I personally enjoyed was “helping” Zach McCoy put the tables away. He would flex his little muscles and start moving the tables down the hallway for storage. I was his helper. Truth be told, there is no way Zach could move those tables on his own power. He needed to draw from a strength greater than his own to make it happen.

That is what the word “power” means in the above scripture. God is all-powerful which means that anyone who works with Him is also all-powerful. In the same way that Zach could do anything I could do (because I was the one doing it), the man or woman who relies on God is filled with all the power of God.

One of the reasons why many people never experience the power of God is because they never do anything that requires it. If we always live in our own ability, we will never experience what only God can do. This is why I love the ministry of healing so much. Every time I declare healing for someone, I am stepping far outside of my own ability. I cannot heal, but the Jesus in me can!

The Psalmist says, “My soul makes its boast in the Lord.” (Psalm 34:2) You cannot boast in the Lord if you never depend on the Lord. Otherwise, what would you have to boast about?

Something to pray about:

Jesus, I want to live on the outer edge with You. No more playing it safe. No more holding back. I am jumping and You are my parachute! My no risk life is predictable, but dead. I want to live fully alive in You!

In what way will you step out of the comfort zone and trust God today? (He can’t wait to show you His strength!)

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Wednesday, October 15

“To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.”
(Colossians 1:29)

This little verse is packed with meaning! The Apostle Paul is giving a short little testimony to God’s power.

“Strenuously contend” is a term drawn from athletics. When an athlete competes, he/she gives it everything they have. They strain, they push their bodies to the limit. Paul did this for the sake of the gospel. It’s a good question for you to consider. What are you giving your all for? Is it worth it? Paul was maxing out on spreading the gospel.

“The energy of Christ” is Paul’s testimony that, having maxed out on his own strength, he relied upon the power of Jesus. The greatness of the light is not determined by the size of the candle, but by the flame. Paul was not a very big candle, but the flame burning in him was huge! The same can be true of you.

Everybody spends their life on something. What are you spending your life on? There is no greater experience than being at the end of what you can do and finding Christ’s strength pushing you to the next level.

Something to pray about:

Jesus, I am sorry for living in my own strength and playing it safe. I want to max out on my own ability so that I can experience Your ability. I want to go beyond what I alone can do. I want to see what only You can do. I am all Yours Jesus. Let’s do this!

“Balance” is not a Biblical concept. You will not find a single Bible verse commanding you to “have balance” in your life. Jesus demands that we carry our cross. He tells us to count the cost. He said that if you look back, you’re not even worthy to follow Him! “Balance” is the world’s way of attaining what only Jesus can give to those who sell out for Him. Our most balanced life is lived when we are most radically sold out for Jesus. He will tell you when to rest. He will tell you when to slow down and when to speed it up. He is a good Shepherd who knows you better than you know yourself. If you try to create balance you will miss Jesus. Cash it all in for Jesus and you will find balance.

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Thursday, October 16

“…continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:7)

A tree with a shallow root system may look pretty but it’s going to have a difficult time in a storm. Paul tells us to be “rooted and built up in Christ”. Many people do not stay long enough to establish good roots. They dabble in Jesus here and there. Never fully satisfied, they ultimately conclude that Jesus doesn’t work.

It takes time to develop deep roots. Knowing Jesus takes time. Many Christians feel insecure in their relationship with Jesus. They fear that one bad day will mean they lost their place with Him. This insecurity goes away as one matures. The roots get deep, the life gets built up, the confidence grows, thankfulness flows.

The good news is that your faith does not depend on your weakness. It depends on Christ’s strength, and He is plenty strong! Salvation is not something to be done, but a Person to be followed. Stick close to Jesus over the long course of your life, let your roots push deep as you study His Word, you will find a power that you never thought was possible.

Mrs. Pennington was a powerhouse. I used to wash her windows and help out around her little apartment. She was old, frail and stood about 4’ 9”. Yet, this woman was charged! She spoke with an authority that made people listen and demons take notice. Her strength did not come from her physical frame. It came from her roots that had spent decades planted in Christ. Yours will do the same.

Something to pray about:

Enough of the roller coaster Jesus! I am done with my up and down, topsy-turvy faith. I want to get some roots, dig them deep, grow them strong. No more hit and miss! I want to become disciplined about studying Your Word. I want to be held accountable to live out Your Word.

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
You were more than weak before Jesus collided with you. You were dead!

Every person is made up of three interlocking parts: body, soul and spirit. Your body is the obvious part (it’s the part you take to the gym). Your soul is your emotions, it’s the part of you that feels and thinks. This is the part that psychologists focus on when counseling. In fact, the Bible word for soul is “psyche”. Your spirit is altogether different and is ignored by most in the world. Your spirit is the spiritual part of you. It is the “you” in you. It’s the part that lasts for eternity.

The Bible makes it clear that your spirit is born dead in sin. Many try to enliven their spirit through religious types of exercises, but no amount of human effort can raise the dead. The dead cannot raise the dead! Only one who is alive can quicken the corpse. When Jesus physically rose again, He made it possible for your spirit to abundantly live.

How does He do it? “He forgave us all our sins.” The root of the word “forgive” is “grace” meaning God has granted us a favor by forgiving our sin. Sin was the cancer that killed our spirit. Christ is the chemo that eradicated the cancer, quickened you and gave you life eternal.

Something to pray about:

Thank You Jesus for raising my spirit up from the dead. I am alive because you have infused Your life into me. Every breath is Yours. It is my desire to use every breath for Your glory.

Think through this…you were dead, even though you breathed and lived an earthly life. Many never notice their deadness. When was the first time you noticed the deadness of your spirit? How long did it take before you asked Jesus to save you? How is your experience of life, more alive now than ever before?

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Saturday, October 18

“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink…do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels to disqualify you.”

(Colossians 2:16 & 18)

It takes strength to refuse the judgment of others. It is easier to simply allow their judgments of us to change the way we behave. Most of us fight the battle of being a people pleaser. We are so desperate for others to be happy with us that we allow them to dictate what we do. Instead of keeping our eyes fixed on Christ, we look at other people. By fitting in with them we have a falling out with Jesus.

The Apostle Paul urges us to use our newfound strength in Christ to reject the judgment of others upon us. If we don’t, the abundant life that Jesus died to give you will quickly ebb into a list of religious rules. Count on this fact: your freedom and power in Christ will eventually offend someone. Their attack is evidence that you are on the right track.

Hear the inspired words of Paul again, “Do Not Let...” This means you have the power of choice. Will you cave in to the pressure of religion? Or will you rise up in the power of Jesus? From where does your confidence come? Does it come from what others think of you? Or does it come from what Jesus says of you?

Something to pray about:

Jesus, I no longer want to live as a people pleaser. I want to fix my eyes upon You, follow Your lead, listen for Your voice. The opinions and judgments of others have often steered me away from You. No more! Thank You for the power to take this stand.

Everyone matters to us, but let’s be honest, some people matter more than others. What is it about their opinion that matters so much? The person whose opinion has the greatest weight, is the person who has the greatest influence in our lives. For you, who is this person? Why?

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Sunday, October 19

“Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” (Colossians 3:1)

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it! On this Lord’s Day, let’s set our hearts on better things. Let’s set them up above in the Heavenly realms.

Some people say that you can be so heavenly minded that you’re no earthly good. That is simply not true. The more heavenly minded you are, the more earthly good you can do.

So today, let’s recalibrate our minds to think the things of God, to think like Christ. You literally have Christ’s mind! (I Corinthians 2:16) So it’s not too hard to think like Jesus. One of the great benefits of celebrating the Lord’s Day is that it’s a chance to reset your thinking and prepare for another week.

We worship which reminds us of the greatness of our God. We study the Word through which God speaks truth to us. We fellowship with other believers who support us in obeying God’s Word.

It’s going to be a great Lord’s Day!

Something to pray about:

I love to worship You Jesus. It is the very thing for which You created me. Help me to overcome the distractions of life and set my focus upon You. I confess that life’s daily crushes tend to capture my attention. But not today! Today is YOUR DAY. I set my attention on You.

Thinking through your week, about what specific things do you need the mind of Christ?

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Many people are not victims of error, they are victims of truth not lived. Truth that is not lived is no better than error, in fact, it may even be worse!

The greatest problem in your life is the one you’re sugar coating. The most dangerous sin in your life is the one that you don’t think is a big deal. That’s like sleeping with a scorpion in your bed. You may go a night or two but eventually that thing’s going to bite! When it does, you will wish that you had dealt with it.

Jesus insists on absolute truth telling. He demands truth living. He does not deal in shadows. He does not tolerate half-truths. Your lies are deadly and Jesus wants to remove them. The truths you’re not living are killing you and Jesus loves you enough to do something about it.

Are you ready?

“In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, Who is the Head over every power and authority.”
~Colossians 2:9-10
“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” (Colossians 2:8)

Satan is the ultimate shady used car salesman of the universe. Selling himself off as “honest Lou” he deals in lemons and jalopies. He is the master of façade, the lord of smoke and mirrors. Anyone who takes the time to look closely will discover the veneer.

We live in a world filled with lies. We hate to be lied to, yet we listen to them every day. Our fears, our worries, our shame, even our religion, we are daily bombarded by these lying “friends”. It’s not a new problem. Two thousand years ago, the Apostle Paul urged his Colossian friends to “see to it that no one takes you captive with deceptive philosophy.” It’s our responsibility to make certain that we don’t get lied to. The difficulty is that lies are so bountiful, the truth easily gets lost. How does one cut through all the lies?

The solution is found at the end of the above scripture, “…rather than on Christ.” You’ve got to know Jesus intimately or you will not be able to discern truth from lies. Truth is a Person, not a concept. The goal is not to ignore lies, but to know Jesus. Make Him your pursuit.

Something to pray about:

Jesus You are true and You are the Truth. In knowing You, I know the truth. I want to be so much like You that the only differences between us are the scars on Your body. I want to know You so well that I can smell a lie from a mile away.

This week we are going to be uncovering some of the lies you believe. It might be unsettling for you. Give your soul some advanced notice by taking a minute right now and jotting down what you think some of those lies are.

(You’re going to have an awesome week! The truth sets you free like nothing else!)

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
“Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules?” (Colossians 2:20)

We make a big deal out of education and learning. What about unlearning? Unlearning is just as necessary to our growth. In fact, many times when we learn something, we unlearn something else. For example, Christopher Columbus learned that the earth was round, which meant that they unlearned the flat earth theory.

Having chosen to follow Jesus as my Savior, I have entered into a whole new place. In learning Jesus and His ways, I must unlearn my old ways. I live by a new set of rules...Kingdom rules. Paul told the Roman Christians that, “The Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17)

The Colossians were believing the lie that their behavior is what made them good. Good deeds do not make a good man. Only Jesus can make a man good. The kingdom of Jesus is not focused on rule keeping. It is focused on being filled with the Holy Spirit, who forms us in righteousness, fills us with peace and floods us with joy. (Sounds like something I want, how about you?!)

**Something to pray about:**

Jesus, I need to unlearn a few things. For starters, I need to unlearn that my good works don't make me good. Jesus, I am not a good person whom you make better. I was a dead person whom you brought to life. I was a rebel whom you reformed. I am asking for a revolution to occur in this life that I call “mine”. Overthrow the old regime, and rule in my heart today.

What things do you need to unlearn?
Wednesday, October 22

“These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.” (Colossians 2:17)

What is real? For many years, we believed that we lived in a 3 dimensional world. Physicists are now saying that our world could contain as many as 13 dimensions and possibly more! It’s hard to think past “high, long and wide” but apparently there are 10 other dimensions. Crazy!

With all of these possibilities, it makes one wonder what is real? There are dimensions of life that cannot be seen with our physical eyes. On the subatomic level there is an entire world yet to be discovered. Does our inability to see it make it less real or more real?

We live in the tension between the seen and the unseen. This is why religion appeals to us, we can see it. We do certain rituals and follow certain rules and we feel that all is well. Is this true?

Paul tells us that these things we can see, these religious festivals, are only a “shadow”. A shadow may have the shape of what is real, but it’s ultimately just a dark spot on the wall. Let us stop chasing shadows around. Let’s seek Christ.

Something to pray about:

Holy Spirit, show me where the shadows are in my life. I want what is real. I want You. I cannot hang on to shadows, but I grasp at them all the time! Please forgive me for wasting so much effort on what is not real when I could be holding on to You.

It’s possible to waste your whole life on shadows. Grasping for this, clutching for that, and all the while missing the One who holds you. A shadow disappears when the sun rises higher. Ask Jesus to rise up in your life and remove any shadows from your faith. Let’s make this faith REAL. What shadows are you grabbing for? “Shine Jesus, shine! Rid me of my shadows!”
Thursday, October 23

“...Such a person goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. They have lost connection with the Head…” (Colossians 2:18-19)

Many people are like concrete...thoroughly mixed up and firmly set. They live by the motto: “Don’t confuse me with the facts, my mind is made up!” It’s great to have solid convictions. It’s dangerous when those convictions are not founded upon truth!

The Colossian Church had some members who apparently felt they were an authority on truth because they received visions. Their assumption was that these visions were from God. However, their minds were unspiritual and they were not in connection with Jesus or His Body, the Church. So, how accurate could their visions be?

Such people often strut about like a rooster in the barnyard, appearing to have a semblance of authority. The warning is clear from the beginning of verse 18: “Don’t let such a person disqualify you!” This person does not know intimacy with Jesus and they will mislead you, if you’re not careful. Their visions might be impressive. Their speech might be persuasive. But, don’t get sucked in by them!

Something to pray about:

Jesus, I need discernment. I am not always good at telling the difference between a lie and the truth. Some people are very persuasive! Help me Lord to know when I am being led well and when I am being misled.

One of the best ways to recalibrate your ability to properly hear God’s voice is to go on a media fast. Take a week and break away from all tv, radio, internet. Increase your time in God’s Word, so you can know what His voice sounds like.

Find someone who has intimacy with Jesus. Not just a church person, or one who calls themselves a Christian, but someone who clearly has a deep connection with the living Christ. Observe their lives and do what they do.

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Friday, October 24

“Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom…but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.” (Colossians 2:23)

The self-help book industry is now a multi-billion dollar industry. Gurus with big smiles, fancy clothes and smooth tongues have mixed together an intoxicating concoction of “3 steps to a better you” and “the millionaire in you”, etc. etc.

Many of these guides sell themselves as “Christians” by sprinkling their writings with obscure Bible quotes from Proverbs. Even the Apostle Paul admitted that they “have an appearance of wisdom”.

What does one do? How can we discern the difference between what appears to be wise and what actually is wise? One of the tell tale signs is depth. The self-help books and religion are mostly concerned with changing behavior. Jesus is always more concerned with your heart. He knows that when your heart is changed, your habits will change. Only Jesus has the power to transform a person’s character.

This is the final frontier for one who has professed Christ as Savior. We have been so conditioned to fix it ourselves that Jesus’ invitation to come to Him for rest sounds strange to our stressed out ears. Many get saved by faith, then quickly set faith aside and feverishly try to earn their holiness.

Are you tired of trying so hard?

Something to pray about:

Thank You Jesus for being concerned about my heart first and my behavior second. For so long now, I have believed the lie that I have to make myself good. I accept Your invitation to come walk with You. The Bible says that, “Iron sharpens Iron”. It can only be a good thing if You rub off on me.

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Saturday, October 25

“Epaphras…is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.” (Colossians 4:12)

Everybody needs an Epaphras in life. He is the kind of person who stays up late and gets up early because you are on his mind and he is praying for you. He is literally carrying you to Heaven’s Gate in prayer. He does not just casually cast up a “bless ‘em Lord” but he always “wrestles in prayer” for you. His prayer life is a work out!

His prayer is threefold:

#1 That you stand firm against the tide of lies that bombard you each day. You know what God’s will is and you do not move from it.

#2 That you are mature. Maturity is not about one’s age. It’s not about the passage of time, but the development of character. A mature person lives with integrity, they are stable, they know who they are in Christ and they are reproducing that life in others.

#3 That you be fully assured. Confidence is a good thing if it is founded on truth. We all must reach this place in our relationship with Jesus where we are fully assured that “I am His and He is mine.”

Ours is the story of Peter. Before meeting Jesus, his name was Simon. The name “Simon” means “shifting sand”. Then Jesus collided into his life and changed his name to “Peter” which means “Rock”. Only Jesus has the power to change a shifty, shady character into a rock! Your growth as a Christ follower happens as Jesus reveals lies and trumps them with His truth.

Something to pray about:

Jesus, please expose the lies that I believe. Transform my character from shifting sand to a rock. I am weary of being wishy/washy. I want to be solid!

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through Psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.” (Colossians 3:16)

It’s the Lord’s Day! One of the best parts of this special day is the opportunity we have to gather with Christian brothers and sisters. We encourage each other and we learn from each other, we celebrate together. It’s awesome!

There is one term in this verse that seems different. What are these “songs from the Spirit”? These are special songs created by you for God. They don’t have to make sense or even rhyme. You were created in the image of a musical and creative God. Therefore, you have this ability inside of you.

Try it today. Sit down, relax, get alone, and begin to praise God for Who He is and all He has done. Imagine yourself to be like a little child who is putting on a “concert” for their parent. What makes it sweet is the singer, not the quality of the song. Your Heavenly Father wants to hear your song. It would be goofy to others, but not to Him. He loves you and He loves to hear you sing.

Then, the next time our church gathers for worship, when there is a lull in the music, or a transition between songs, allow your love for Jesus to bubble out in a song. It’s a song in the Spirit! There is nothing more beautiful than someone who is so enthralled by the beauty of God that they forget their surroundings and simply love Him in chorus.

Something to pray about:

Praise You Jesus for colliding with my life. Your truth has exposed lies in my life and I thank you. Lord, please uncover more lies until all that remains is truth. It is the presence of Your unconditional love which frees me to live in truth.

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
In the heart of every Christian is a throne and a cross. The Christian sits on the throne and keeps Christ on the cross. At some point, the Christian must get on the cross, dying to self in order to know abundant living.

To enjoy Jesus as your Savior will cost you nothing. He paid the price at Calvary. To know Jesus as your Lord will cost you everything. The only way for you to know genuine life is to give Jesus all, keeping nothing for yourself.

A life unchanged by God is a life untouched by God. It is impossible to come into contact with the Living Christ and remain the same. He not only changes your inner life. He changes your outer life! He changes your time, your money, your relationships, your work habits, everything!

The Letter to Colossians has much to say about this, so we will be taking the next two weeks to look at it. You will find that Jesus leaves no stone unturned in your life as He seeks to make a radical transformation in the way you live.

“In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, Who is the Head over every power and authority.”
—Colossians 2:9-10
"Put to death therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature...."
(Colossians 3:5)

Seems overwhelming doesn’t it? Whatever belongs to your earthly nature, simply, put it to death. It’s easier said than done. How does this happen?

Our earthly nature is like one of those trick candles you put on birthday cakes. Blow it out...it lights up again. Blow it out again...it lights back up again. This describes the experience of most Christians in their battle against sin. Just when they think they have it licked, it flares up again.

The above scripture seems to imply that it’s a once and done kind of endeavor. Is this true? Are we reading it correctly? A quick word study will help.

The command, “put to death” is literally translated, “render as dead”. One dictionary defines it as “cut off everything that energizes sin”. The New American Standard Version of the Bible translates it as “Consider them dead.” As long as we live on earth, sin will be present, but it doesn’t have to be dominant in your life.

Sin cannot be beaten, but it can be starved. Sin begets sin. One sin always leads to another and then another. It is the nature of sin to grow like poison ivy. Give it a little bit of ground and it will soon dominate the garden of your soul. Starve it out. Gaining victory over sin begins by resisting the one you’re being tempted with right now. Say “no” to that one. It will be easier to say “no” to the next one.

Something to pray about:

I say “yes” to You dear Jesus! YES! It feels like sin is always lurking in the shadowy corners of my heart, ready to mug me at the first chance it gets. Guard me from the evil one dear Jesus. Deliver me from evil.

And now the rubber hits the road. How does a collision with Christ impact my daily living? How has it changed you so far?

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Tuesday, October 28

“But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these…”
(Colossians 3:8)

Have you ever thrown something out in the garbage and then wished you could get it back? One time, I sold a motorcycle because I wanted the cash. Later, I wanted to ride my bike and realized that I neither had the bike nor the money! I regretted selling it.

Some people think of their sin in the same way. In a moment of intense devotion, they gave it all up to follow Christ. Later, they wish they hadn’t been so hasty. Let me ask you a tough question: is there any sin from your past that you actually miss? We have a way of idealizing “the good old days”. In thinking about that sin you miss think also, about the consequences of it.

Yesterday, we learned about starving sin from our lives by making one good choice after another. To “rid yourself” of sin is slightly different. You’re not just starving it. You are literally throwing it out in the garbage. It is a conscious decision to cut it out of your life. Our sinful nature needs to be put to death. Our sinful behavior needs to be tossed out. It’s trash day. It’s time for you take some garbage out of your life.

Something to pray about:

My sin is like an old Christmas tree Jesus. At one time, I thought it was great. But now that you have brought me to a new place, I just don’t want it any more. Let’s get rid of it together.

Is there any sinful behavior that you need to kick to the curb today?

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Wednesday, October 29

“Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.” (Colossians 3:11)

When Jesus collides with us we not only see ourselves differently, but we see others differently as well. Jesus enables us to look into others and not just look at them.

To look at someone we see what they do and what they look like. At this basic level it is easy to cast judgment. It is easy to divide people into race, or social status, or by their life choices. If they are different, we can write them off and dismiss them. Sometimes, we even have Bible verses to support our perspective!

To look into someone is to see what Jesus is forming inside of that one. The above scripture says that, “Christ is all”. So, let’s not look upon the surface of a person. Let’s look into what Christ is doing in their life. When this happens, we can encourage them to join with what Christ is doing.

This changes the way we relate to others. That coworker who has been getting on your last nerve? Jesus is at work in that person’s life. Can you see it? That neighbor who annoys you? Jesus is at work in his/her life. Can you see it? That kid at school who bullies others? Jesus is at work. Can you see it?

Jesus literally changes how you see others. We never have to judge by mere appearances again.

Something to pray about:

How did You do it Jesus? You treated everyone with respect, even those who mistreated You! Collide into my perspective and help me to see others as You would have me to see them.

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Thursday, October 30

“Therefore as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience…”

(Colossians 3:12)

I have never been much of a clothes person. The brand name means little, and where I bought it doesn’t really matter. In fact, most of my clothes have been given to me! Other people really care A LOT about their clothes. Carefully selected, smoothly pressed, just the right color, (some guys even know how to match!) they wouldn’t think of wearing hand-me-downs.

Christ collides into your life and He brings a new wardrobe.

Look at the list:

Compassion: The ability to truly empathize with the plight of others. And it drives you to act on their behalf.
Kindness: The ability to do for others precisely what they need.
Humility: Literally means “self-governed”. You don’t think of yourself as more than you are. You don’t think of yourself as less than you are.
Gentleness: The ability to be very strong, but to use it softly.
Patience: Literally, “slow to boil”.

Most of the time we wear clothes to either cover ourselves up, or to make ourselves look good. Jesus gives you clothes that actually benefit others! Pretty cool, huh?!

Something to pray about:

All these years I have used clothing as a cover up, or a means of self-expression. You have given me clothes that benefit others. In Psalm 23 You said, “Surely goodness and mercy follow me”. Everywhere I go Your goodness and mercy are left in my trail. Jesus, transform me so much that others are left in a better place as a result of being with me.

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Friday, October 31

“And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” (Colossians 3:14)

Love is the belt that keeps the rest of your new wardrobe in place. Yesterday we looked at the virtues with which Christ has outfitted us. It would help if you quickly reviewed your notes from yesterday.

Those qualities can be exercised without love. A person can be kind, compassionate, gentle and humble without ever truly loving. Jesus jacked up the definition of love when He said “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13) Genuine love is completely focused on benefitting others, even to the point of dying. It’s easier to live for people when we are first willing to die for them.

When Jesus collided with you, He thrust you into the community of His brothers and sisters. Can you imagine a church filled with people who are totally looking out for one another? Can you imagine a church filled with people who would die for each other? What adjectives would you use to describe such a people? What would they look like? How would they talk to one another? How would they handle conflict?

Take a moment and think through this. What would your day look like if you were kind, compassionate, gentle and humble? Now, what would that look like if you did those things through genuine love? (True love raises the volume on those qualities, does it not?)

Something to pray about:

Okay Jesus, here is a moment of truth...I don’t even come close to loving others the way that You do. I want to stop trying to love others. Would You please love them through me? How about we try that? I will give up control and simply allow You to love the way You want to love, but use me to do it. I am Your hands & feet.

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Saturday, November 1

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts…Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly…And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Colossians 3:15-17)

Three short commands: Let Jesus’ peace rule, let Jesus’ message dwell, and do everything in Jesus’ name.

The word that is translated “rule” is literally the word “umpire” or “referee”. Every competition needs a referee to make sure the game stays fair and rules are followed. For the Christian, Christ’s peace becomes that referee in their heart. Peace is not the absence of conflict as many assume. It is the presence of Jesus. He is peace. The deciding factor for us in making decisions is if Jesus is in it. He may be leading us into some choppy waters, but if He is present, there is peace.

As we move forward, His Word, His message must dwell in us. The word “dwell” refers to a permanent dwelling. His Word must become a part of our very thinking. It must reach down to an attitude level in our soul. This is more than being able to quote Bible verses. It is actually having His word “hidden in our heart” as the Psalmist said. (Psalm 119:11)

“And whatever you do”. I like that! There is a lot of freedom in “whatever”. Many people freeze up at this point in their Christian walk. They desperately want God to tell them what His will is for them. But, what if God is asking you, “What do you want to do?” A person governed by Christ’s peace and filled with Christ’s word is well equipped to simply live each day for God. For this person, there is no difference between the things they do for God and the other things. Everything is done for God.

Something to pray about:

Jesus, I give this whole day to You. Whatever I do today, I want to be sure that You are with me in it. Let’s go to work together. Let’s do lunch together. Let’s hit the gym together. Please give me an increased awareness of Your presence in each aspect of this day.

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Sunday, November 2

“With the word of His greatness has He assembled all that exists, and with a word He is able to overturn it again; for who can say to Him, “What have You done?” or who shall withstand the power of His might? He will act at all times as, and when, He chooses, and not one of His decrees shall fail. The entire universe lies open before Him and there is nothing hidden from His counsel.”

(Clement, Bishop of Rome)
AD. 30-100

Happy Lord’s Day to you! Even though the above quote is not from inspired scripture, our first century brother, Clement, nailed it! His description of the greatness of God is spot on.

READ Isaiah 40 in preparation for our celebration this morning at church. Your God is an awesome God! We never know enough until we recognize that God knows it all. This is the benefit of worship. In worship we take our place at the foot of the Throne. We, the created, bow before the Creator. We acknowledge that He is God and we are not.

Many people view God as merely prestigious. They treat God like a movie star. They gawk and they ooh and awe in His presence but never truly treat Him as God. God is more than prestigious. He is pre-eminent. When God becomes pre-eminent in your life, you are never the same. When God becomes pre-eminent, God rules. God, by his very definition, must rule.

If you treat God as prestigious, you can stand in awe of Him but never be affected by Him. Make the choice today to see God as the pre-eminent Ruler of the Universe and the Sovereign of your heart.

Something to pray about:

Jesus, I have spent my life chauffeuring You around, dragging You to all the places I wanted to go. I have treated You more like a good luck charm than as God. Please forgive me. You reign supreme. You are pre-eminent in this life that I call “mine”.

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Monday, November 3

“Wives submit to your husbands…husbands love your wives…children obey your parents…fathers do not embitter your children…slaves obey your earthly masters…” (Colossians 3:18-22)

Nobody gets left out of these staccato commands. No matter what your household looks like, Jesus still wants to be Lord of it. If Jesus is Lord of your home, it means He is not just a resident there. He is President there. He has a say in how things get done.

*Submission, love, obedience, encouragement, and hard work.* Are these elements present in your home?

Submission means that you are yielding to one another, serving one another’s needs before your own.

*Love* is a verb. It means you do what is best for one another.

Though children are specifically told to obey, *obedience* isn’t just for kids. When asked to do something for one of your family members, how do you typically respond, obedience or disobedience?

*Encouragement* is sorely needed in most homes today. Too many families are embittered toward one another. Give one another some positive input today!

*Working hard* is not just for slaves. Most of us have bosses. Everyone of us has an authority figure in our lives. Ultimately, Jesus is our Boss and we work for Him.

**Something to pray about:**

Jesus, be the Master of our home. Show us how to submit, to love, and to obey. I want encouraging words to fill our home. Give me strength to work hard at building a great home life. I often would prefer to retreat by watching tv or reading a book, but my family deserves better than that. Help me Jesus.

What action will you take today to implement one of the above qualities in your home?

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord…”  
(Colossians 3:23)

“Whatever you do.” Whether it is flipping burgers or flipping houses, trading recipes or trading stocks, digging ditches or designing skyscrapers, do it for the Lord. It won’t change what you’re doing, but it certainly will change how you do it.

For the Christ follower, there is no such thing as a bad boss. Jesus is our Boss and He is really good! He also happens to hold high expectations of us, demanding our very best in all we do.

Many people make the mistake of thinking that Jesus is only interested in what they do at church. Sundays are for God, but Monday through Saturday is their problem. Try this my friend: take Jesus with you to work today. Today is “take Jesus to work day”! Imagine that He is the One in charge of your performance review. (And by the way, He can see everything you’ve done!) What kind of review would Jesus give you? He will judge your motives, your attitudes, your actual work ethic. Would Jesus give you a raise?

Something to pray about:

I am taking You to work with me today Jesus. From now on, I work for you. You’re the One doing my performance review and You are far more thorough than my earthly boss would ever be! Show me the areas where I need to step it up. Show me the areas where I am doing well. I seek to please You when I work.

Your work is holy work because your Boss is a Holy Boss. How does this fact change the way you work today?

“To know Him is to love Him. 
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Wednesday, November 5

“Masters provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in Heaven.” (Colossians 4:1)

Instead of condemning slavery, as we think it ought, the Bible simply tells masters and slaves how to behave. Does this strike you as odd? Why do you think this is so?

When Christ collides with a Christian boss, they become fair and right with their employees. There are several great examples of Christian CEOs in our nation and how they treat their employees with respect and fairness. Hobby Lobby sets their own minimum wage and it’s much higher than any government standard. Chick-Fil-A closes all of their stores on Sundays so their employees can observe the Sabbath. Cardone Industrial has hired an entire staff of chaplains to serve the spiritual needs of their employees. These are just a few. Many others could be mentioned. When Christ collides with a boss, it changes the way they lead.

The above instruction applies to more than Christian bosses. Really, anyone in leadership is called to live by this standard of rightness and fairness. Parents, coaches, teachers, Life Group leaders, anyone who is in leadership is called to lead as Christ would have them to lead.

Something to pray about:

Whether it is in my family, or at church or at my job, You have given me leadership Jesus. I want to lead as You would have me to lead. May it be said of my leadership that I am right and fair. You lead me so well, thank You! May I lead them with the same grace in which You have led me.

Would those who follow your leadership describe it as being “right and fair”? How so? Why not?

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Thursday, November 6

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”
(Colossians 4:2)

Prayer is nothing more than a yearning for Jesus. It is the longing of my heart towards His. Being devoted to prayer is about desire not discipline.

Many people would have you believe that “devoted to prayer” means you increase the time you spend on your knees. If you have been praying 5 minutes a day, now its time to double that to 10 minutes a day. That is just cold religion and there is no way you can sustain it practically in your life. How do you devote yourself to prayer?

Fall in love with Jesus. By now in our “Christ Collision” experience, you have hopefully discovered the amazing Person who is Jesus Christ. The goal of prayer is not so much about getting stuff, but experiencing communion with Jesus instead.

A pursuit of Jesus makes you watchful. Your eyes become opened to His workings all around you. You will begin to see Him at work in the people around you. You will begin to sense His Presence with you as you go through your day.

Staying thankful is the attitude that welcomes the Presence of Jesus in your day. Think about it, do you enjoy hanging out with a grouch? Nor does Jesus! Staying thankful actually invites the Presence of Jesus in your life. Try it today!

Something to pray about:

Keep my eyes open to You today Jesus. I am watching for You, looking for the signs that You are present. Keep me thankful. At the first sign of grouchiness, I ask You Holy Spirit to prod my heart and stop me in my tracks. I do not want to grieve You in any way today.

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders, make the most of every opportunity.”
(Colossians 4:5)

The “outsiders” is a reference to those not yet saved by Jesus. I grew up going to church, but I remember what it was like to be an outsider. I would hear people talking about their relationship with Jesus and it seemed so close. I didn’t have that closeness. It made me wish for more.

A collision with Jesus does two things: 1) It makes you an “insider”. And, 2) It gives you the privilege of helping others to know Jesus in the same way. You preach a gospel that both forgives sin and heals bodies. You preach a gospel that works, what a privilege!

You are given opportunities every day. Make the most of them. Everybody deserves an encounter with Jesus. Heaven literally touches earth everywhere you go. You live at the intersection between the spiritual realm and the natural realm. It is your privilege to bring others into an encounter with Christ.

This can be done in a variety of ways. At times it is simply a word of hope you give when someone is down. Or, it can be that you offer to pray and your prayer is quickly answered. Or, it can be that you lay hands on them and pray for healing. There are so many opportunities each day! Seize them. People are desperate to encounter a God who cares and you are His ambassador.

Something to pray about:

Confession time Jesus. Most days I live ignorant to the world around me. Detached, I am so focused on my own agenda that I fail to see Yours. Today, I lay down my plans and seek to follow Yours. You set the appointment schedule. If it’s the UPS guy delivering a package, or the lady working in the next cubicle, I want to make the most of any opportunity that crosses my path today. I want to bring them a little slice of Heaven in Your name.

God has given you a life to spend, not to save. How will you give yours away today that others might encounter Jesus through you?

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Saturday, November 8

“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” (Colossians 4:6)

Have you ever wished you could install a delete button on your mouth? Then, if any words come out that shouldn’t, you can just click “delete” and erase them.

Frank Laubach, missionary to Indonesia in the 1950’s said, “The simple program of Christ for winning the whole world is to make each person He touches magnetic enough with love to draw others.” Our speech will either serve to draw others into an encounter with Christ, or it will drive them from Him. This is why our conversations need to be full of grace.

What does a graceless conversation sound like? And, what does a grace-filled conversation sound like?

The Inuit (the original Eskimo) have 20 words for “snow”. When something is important to us, we find ways to communicate it. The work that Jesus is doing in people’s lives is so vital that it requires effort on our part to figure out how to communicate it to them. Don’t give up if you blow it once or twice. Keep practicing. Keep focused on grace-filled speech. In doing this, you will be prepared to answer the harshest of critics in a way that brings them to Jesus.

Something to pray about:

As You already know Jesus, my mouth has a way of running off on me. There are many times that I wish I could take things back. You are so gracious in the way that You speak! Please teach me how to do that. Even if I blow it today, I am determined to speak with gracious words that bring out the best in others. I want to be less interested in spouting my own thoughts and more interested in hearing the thoughts of others.

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
“To Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy. To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.” Jude 24-25

Happy Lord’s Day to you!

You might not always know the right path to take, but you can choose to walk in the right woods. Hold Jesus’ hand. He will keep you from stumbling. He will bring you all the way to the very Throne of God and help you to stand pure and faultless before Him.

This statement from Jude was used as a benediction at the close of church services in the first century. What a great way to leave a worship service! He reminds you that Jesus will hold you and Jesus will lead you. Jesus is worthy of your worship and Jesus isn’t going anywhere. He will stick with you now and forevermore!

May you enjoy worship today. Lay aside the junk from your week and simply rest in the Presence of your Savior. He loves you and He loves it when you worship Him. (Even if you’re not a good singer!)

Something to pray about:

I hold on to You Jesus. Better still, You hold on to me! Thank you. I give You praise today for being so faithful.

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
**Week 7.**
when Christ collides with our humanness

The cross is not a decoration. It’s a destination. You either live by dying upon it, or you flee it and miss its power to radically transform you. It is not an emblem to celebrate. It is an altar on which to succumb. Its irony is that everyone it kills, lives!

It’s the best trade ever, your life for His life. The man or woman who is filled with the Holy Spirit can never again use the excuse “I am only human.” You have access to the same power that created the universe. The same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead also quickens your mortal body. (Romans 8:11) Jesus collides with your humanness and you cease being human!

By now, I hope that you have discovered Jesus is not interested in being a picture that you hang on your wall at home. He is bigger than the slogan on your car’s bumper sticker. He defies simple definition. He desires simple devotion. He cannot be understood, but He can be known. He is glad to reveal Himself to any hungry heart who seeks Him.

This week, allow His Divine nature to collide with your human nature. The result will be amazing!

“In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, Who is the Head over every power and authority.”
~Colossians 2:9-10
"Being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience." (Colossians 1:11)

Make note of the words “all power”. This means, dear child of God, that you have had the power hooked up to your life. The power that pulses through your life is unlike anything else because it is according to God’s “glorious might”.

Untamed power doesn’t do you any good. Right now, there is power all around you. You live under the sun. Therefore, you are exposed to solar energy. You go to work on windy days, but not once have you been zapped by the electricity coming from the power of wind. The reason is because though sun and wind are sources of power, when left untamed, when not harnessed, they don’t move anything. Power needs to be harnessed, it must be directed towards some good.

If untamed power doesn’t help, raw power is outright dangerous. Hurricane force winds destroy. Fires burning out of control do great damage. A blazing sun scorches.

The power at work in you is from a “glorious might” which means it is harnessed towards a glorious end for a holy purpose. You are an ambassador of the Kingdom and you are equipped to do great things for that Kingdom. As you powerfully represent this Kingdom, you can count on opposition. God’s glorious power through you first works in you to give you endurance and patience in the fight. You are not a quitter. You are an awesome closer who brings the power of God to bear on this broken world!

Something to pray about:

I am not one to give up Jesus, yet at times I confess that I have tired out on You. I ask for a fresh infusion of your glorious might into my bloodstream today. Make me bolder, stronger, tougher, that I may represent You well in this world.

A cursory reading of the Book of Acts reveals average men and women acting with great power. Their lives are an example of what your life can be. Battles surrounding, but victories abounding! What would your life look like if you operated in the same power as those ancient men and women?

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
“...and free from accusation.”
(Colossians 1:22b)

Let this phrase sink deep into your soul. You are not innocent, but neither are you guilty. You are free from accusation but you are not free of accusation.

In Revelation 12:10 we are told that Satan is “the accuser of the brethren” and he stands before God day and night casting accusations against you. Perhaps you overhear those terrible accusations? Perhaps you can hear the devil as he attempts to malign you before the Judge? But Jesus has reconciled you. Jesus has forgiven you. Therefore, Satan’s accusations fall on deaf ears. So, my friend, though you are not free of accusation, you are definitely free from it.

Being free from accusation results in your ability to try new things for God and even fail. What have you got to lose? Your greatest wrongs have been erased by the blood of Christ. Any other blunder cannot possibly be a problem. So, you are free! You are free to attempt great things for God. And when your soul’s enemy trash talks you with reminders of your past, simply remind him of his painful and certain future.

“Greater is He who is in you, than he who is in the world.” (I John 4:4)

Something to pray about:

Sometimes the accuser gets the best of me Jesus. Shame masks itself as humility and I am tired of giving into its ugly reminders of my past. Thank You for setting me free from accusation. Thank You for turning the chains of my past into a launch pad for a glorious future.

Listening to accusation has become a habit for many people, perhaps for you. Begin to break that habit today by replacing the lie of accusation with the truth of forgiveness. When you hear the accuser, proclaim the truth that you are forgiven and free from that accusation.

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Wednesday, November 12

“I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.” (Colossians 2:1)

What are you fighting for? When Jesus collides with our lives, He changes the fight. There are many causes for which people contend. Every day, another one beckons us to jump into the ring. What you fight for reveals what you stand for. It reveals what’s truly important to you.

Can we claim to be in the fight for Christ if we never stand for Him? I don’t mean this to be harsh but demons obey Jesus better than most Christians do. Every time Jesus commanded a demon to leave a tormented soul, it obeyed. Do I listen to the commands of Jesus as readily?

Paul contended. He fought hard for the Colossians. He fought hard for people whom he did not even know. Verse 2 explains the goal of Paul’s fight, “in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely Christ.” His fight revealed his heart. He loved Jesus and he wanted more than anything for people to know Him.

What are you fighting for? Is it a fight worth fighting?

Something to pray about:

In my own strength, the fight gets knocked out of me pretty quickly Lord. Would You please collide with my humanness today so that I contend in Your power and not my own? I want to stand up for You but I often cower in the face of opposition. Toughen me up Lord! It’s time to take off the gloves!

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Thursday, November 13

“In Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ.”
(Colossians 2:11)

It’s uncomfortable to our modern ears that the Bible would use a medical procedure like circumcision as a way to illustrate a spiritual truth. It’s even awkward for us to talk about it in mixed company.

Yes, the removal of a male’s foreskin was a way that ancient Jews declared their commitment to God and to the Israelite community. But notice that Paul takes the concept to a spiritual level. When Jesus collides with us, He performs a circumcision in the heart. He cuts away our sin. He slices away our old habits, our old ways. Once removed, a foreskin serves no purpose. It is grotesque and must be thrown away. Your old life of sin is as filthy as that foreskin. It’s not worth keeping. It needs to be dumped out.

It’s shocking when you consider that returning to your old ways is like playing with a discarded foreskin. Perhaps the word picture is intended to be deplorable in order to shake us up. In light of this, my sin doesn’t look so good.

Something to pray about:

Never again Jesus! Now that I am filled with Your Holy Spirit, never again can I claim to be only human. You have removed that old life from me and given me new life in You. I am grossed out by the notion of playing with those old ways. I ask You to cut them away and remove them so that I am free to live the new life that You died to give me.
Who you don’t know really can hurt you. The new you, the post-collision you, is in the process of being renewed. Knowing Jesus is the fastest way to become like Jesus. He rubs off on you, as iron sharpens iron. Hang out with Jesus, get to know Jesus, and you will begin to think differently. You will begin to feel differently, you will see life differently.

God made you in His image. You were not made to be God, but you were made to be like God. Romans 12:2 tells us to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” The surest path to stagnation is to think the same as you always have. The quickest path to a transformed life is to change your thinking. If you want a new tomorrow, change your thinking today.

The 18th century preacher, Charles Spurgeon once said, “If you are renewed by grace and were to meet your old self, I am sure you would be very anxious to get out of his company.” So true! I cringe when I think about some of the things I used to do. I am so thankful that old man is gone.

The battle for your holiness is won or lost between your ears. Begin today believing what God says about the old you…its dead. Stop worrying about what you used to be. Begin to embrace what Jesus is making you to be.

Something to pray about:

A new mind leads to a new me. Jesus, help me to renew my mind. I commit to taking every thought captive and making it obedient to You. I submit my thought life to You. You are Lord of my heart. Now I ask that You become Lord of my mind.

Not every thought that enters your head is your own. The devil often masks his wicked thoughts as your voice. The next time you “hear” a thought telling you how worthless you are, take it captive by declaring, “That’s not my thought! I command you to leave me alone right now. Jesus says that I am to die for!”

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Saturday, November 15

Tell Archippus, “See to it that you complete the ministry you have received from the Lord.” (Colossians 4:17)

We don’t know what Archippus’ ministry was, but apparently it was important enough to be completed.

Everyone has a ministry. Yours may not be in the spotlight, but it is nonetheless, a light. Ministry is always about people. This means every ministry is worthy of proper completion. It’s easy to get distracted or discouraged from ministry. Many ministers don’t finish. They just give up.

This raises a valuable question. How do you know when your ministry is completed? When is it proper to say, “I have run the race, I have fought the good fight”? (II Timothy 4:7)

In our own strength, it is easy to give up in ministry. Ministry can be difficult and grueling. That is why we must receive it from the Lord. If you’re doing it for any other reason, it will be easy to leave it incomplete.

Something to pray about:

When You saved me Jesus, you also called me into ministry. I am thankful for the purposes and plans You have for my life. Make me faithful to complete the work to which You have called me. Give me strength equal to the task. Give me chutzpah equal to the difficulty.

God did not create you to get work done. He created work to get you done. What is God teaching you through the work to which He has called you? How has your ministry made you more like Jesus?

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Sunday, November 16

God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”  So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my Helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”  (Hebrews 13:5-6)

Happy Lord’s Day to you!

Can you think of any greater gift than God's Presence?  He is the most joyful Being in the Universe.  Could there be a better Friend with whom to hang out?  He is the strongest Being in the Universe.  Could there be any safer place than His Presence?  He is the greatest Being in the Universe.  Could there be a better role model?

Relish His Presence today my friend.  Enjoy Jesus.  After all, He really enjoys you!

Something to pray about:

Thank You for your constant Friendship Jesus.  You have been a faithful companion and I am grateful for Your ever presence.

“To know Him is to love Him.  To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
You’re not the first person into whom God crashed. There have been many others. Their lives were dramatically altered as well.

Sometimes we suffer from terminal uniqueness. It’s the feeling that I am the only one who is going through this. That’s not true. Thousands of years ago Solomon said, “there is nothing new under the sun.” If that was true in his day, it is even more so now, with the passage of millennia.

This week we will not be looking at the Letter to Colossians. Rather, we will be examining testimonies of people who also collided with God. You will be stunned by how ordinary their lives were. You will be surprised to discover that their collisions were similar to your own.

As we bring this series to a close, may it serve as the beginning of a lifetime of crashes with the Almighty. Jesus would love to continue colliding with you. I pray that you feel the same about Him.

“In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, Who is the Head over every power and authority.” ~Colossians 2:9-10
Monday, November 17

“How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of Heaven!” (Genesis 28:17)

Please take a moment to read Genesis 28:10-19.

Verse 11 tells us that Jacob reached a “certain place”. As the sun was setting, he decided to bed down for the night. In the darkness he encountered God. When he awoke in the morning, his response was “How awesome is this place!”

What makes the difference between a “certain place” and an “awesome place”? The Presence of God!

What makes the difference between a “certain person” and an “awesome person”? The Presence of God!

What makes the difference between a “certain job” and an “awesome job”? You guessed it, the Presence of God!

It took a dream for Jacob to realize that the Presence of God was with him all along. He simply did not see it before. May you live with your eyes wide open today to the Presence of Jesus. And may you have an awesome day!

Something to pray about:

Open my eyes Jesus to the reality of Your Presence. Your Word assures me that You never leave me and You never forsake me. I live most days unaware of Your Presence and I don’t want to do that today. I want to see You in even the most mundane parts of today. Open my eyes Lord.

What can you do to position yourself in such a way that you realize Jesus’ Presence with you today?

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Tuesday, November 18

“At this, Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.”
(Exodus 3:6)

Please take a minute to read the whole text, Exodus 3:1-6.

Moses sees a bush burning in the desert. There would be nothing strange about this sight, after all, it’s a desert and stuff gets toasted every day. What caught Moses’ eye was the fact that this bush refused to incinerate. The fire did not consume it.

Moses moves closer to investigate and the Bible says, “When God saw that Moses had gone over to look, God called to him from the bush...” So, the burning bush was bait. It was the hook God used to grab Moses’ attention from an otherwise normal day.

You ask for an encounter with Jesus. Are you looking for the abnormal in the normal? Eyes open, my friend! God is trying to speak with you and He will do it in the course of your normal day. Do you notice any burning bushes? For Moses, a burning bush was nothing new, but a burning bush that didn’t burn out, was.

My bet is that you have had burning bushes before. You’ve had a tank of gas that didn’t run out, a dirty dish that wouldn’t get clean, a lost key that was suddenly found, etc. There is something abnormally normal about all these things. God may be trying to speak to you through it. Moses could have missed God by ignoring the bush. Thankfully, he took notice. You will be glad that you took notice as well.

Something to pray about:

It amazes me Jesus that You come into my normal day. I am glad that You do! I am positive that I have missed a few burning bushes in my lifetime. I don’t want to miss them any more! Today I choose to slow down enough to take notice of the abnormally normal. I want to meet You there.

Think through your last week. Have you witnessed any abnormally normal events? It’s not too late to evaluate those. Perhaps God was trying to speak to you in them. What’s He saying?

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Wednesday, November 19

“When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, ‘The Lord is with you mighty warrior!’” (Judges 6:12)


God met Gideon as he hid from his enemies. Yellow-bellied, Gideon cowered in the hole, trying his best to avoid conflict. Gideon was chicken because he believed a lie about himself. “I am the least in my family.” (Judges 6:15) The lie kept him on lock down. It also made it convenient for him to continue hiding and never face his fears. The lie became his excuse.

God saw something different in Gideon. God said that he was a “mighty warrior”. This idea was so radically opposed to the lies with which Gideon lived that God had to shake him from his deceptive covering with an encounter. Fire flared from a rock!

“When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, ‘Alas! Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!’” (Judges 6:22)

Gideon did not stop being afraid, but he did stop listening to his fears. The voice of God trumped the voice of fear and he became a mighty warrior. An encounter with Jesus will do the same in your life also. You can be assured: Jesus sees you in a different way than you do. It's time to start living by what He says.

Something to pray about:

Fear has been a really lousy friend. I have listened to it for too long Jesus! Today I choose to listen to Your voice instead of that negative gnawing from fear. I choose to believe what You say and not what fear says.

Many of the lies we believe have been fed to us from others: our parents, teachers, peers, the media, etc. We cannot avoid hearing the lies, but we certainly can avoid believing them. Take a moment and write down some of the truth statements that Jesus says about you. Spend today thinking about them.

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Thursday, November 20

“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord…” (Isaiah 6:1)


In a day when many people speak of God as their buddy, Isaiah’s vision challenges us to rethink how we approach the Lord of the Universe. He is truly AWESOME!

Notice that Heaven is not a quiet place. The thresh holds are shaking, the pillars are quaking, the temple is filled with smoke. Angels fly back and forth shouting the holiness of God. Isaiah was on sensory overload! The Presence of God shook Isaiah to his very core.

History tells us that Isaiah came from nobility. This is why he is called “The Prince of Prophets”. We also know that he was a good friend of King Uzziah, so Isaiah was grieving the passing of his friend when God appeared to him in this vision. This teaches us a valuable lesson: At times we have to experience a death in order to experience God. Something, or someone needs to be taken away so that we can see God as He is. Not everything stands in God’s way, but those things that do, must be removed. As we grieve the loss, God moves in. As we mourn what we miss, the Master fills the gap.

What must die in your life before you can encounter Jesus?

Something to pray about:

As painful as it might be, I invite You to remove whatever is necessary from my life so that I can know You better Jesus. Let nothing stand in Your way. Ultimately, You are more important to me than whatever it is that must go.

This is a hard concept for us to swallow. We would prefer if Jesus would simply step into our lives as is. We would prefer He not remove what is dear to us in order to do it. But He may have to remove it. Are you okay with this?

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Friday, November 21

“There the Lord reached out His hand and touched my mouth…” (Jeremiah 1:9)

Please read Jeremiah 1.

Jeremiah received three words from God in succession. Each word built upon the previous one in order to bring Jeremiah to a place of strength.

Word #1 “Jeremiah, I have known you before you were you.” (Jeremiah 1:5)

Word #2 “Jeremiah, what do you see?” (Jeremiah 1:11)

Word #3 “Jeremiah, what do you see now?” (Jeremiah 1:13)

The beauty of Jeremiah’s encounter…it is normal. God starts with a truth that you know very well. “I have known you since before time began.” You probably already know this about God. He knows you.

Then God gives Jeremiah a vision of an almond branch. A stick! How’s that for a grandiose vision?! The second vision Jeremiah receives is of a boiling pot of water. So, a stick and a boiling pot.

We often think that if we get a vision from God it will be some spectacular, earth shaking, flaming thing. Oddly, God often reveals Himself in the ordinary. Jeremiah’s first visions were of a stick and a boiling pot. The lesson for us is God can use the simplest things to communicate His heart to you.

Something to pray about:

You know me so well Lord, because You have known me for so long. You knew me before I even existed! Thank You for not scaring me with frightening, flaming visions in the night. Thank You for meeting me each day in the normal stuff. You are so very good to me and I praise You for it!

What visions have you seen lately? Could those be from God?

“Know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”


Saturday, November 22

“As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from Heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground...” (Acts 9:3-4)

Read the whole story in Acts 9:1-19.

One minute Saul thinks he is doing God a favor by killing Christians. The next minute Saul becomes a Christian! (Sounds like God, doesn’t it?) Only God can change the course of a person’s eternity in one minute.

Saul’s life was forever changed by this one encounter with the Risen Jesus. Blinded, Saul was given his sight. Knocked to his knees, Saul was raised up.

Has God ever had to knock you off your horse? Has God ever had to throw a curveball in your way to redirect you in His way? Sometimes what we perceive to be a roadblock is really a starting block. Sometimes Jesus stands in your way so you can find His.

Something to pray about:

Thank You Jesus for loving me enough to change my plans. My plans are not always good, but Yours are always great! I invite You to redirect me as You see fit. Knock me off my high horse if You have to, as long as I find You in the process.

Is there anything in your life right now that stands in the way of your plans? Could it be God has placed that roadblock there in order to redirect you?

“To know Him is to love Him. To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
Sunday, November 23

“...the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.”
(Romans 4:17)

Happy Lord’s Day to you!

God’s words create worlds. His speech causes life to teem. Take a moment and think on the above statement about God. He speaks into nothing and something appears. He speaks into chaos and cosmos emerges.

God is forever declaring life to you. What God says is true, even if our circumstances disagree. God looked at a universe that was formless and void and declared it to order. And it was so. God looked at a shriveled old man named Abram, and declared him to be the father of many nations. And it was so. God looked at a red haired shepherd boy named David, and declared him to be the future king. And it was so. God looked at the empty womb of a virgin and declared her to be the mother of the Messiah. And it was so.

It makes you wonder. What does God see in you that you’re not looking at? One thing is certain His dreams for you are bigger than your own. What He sees is better than you have ever considered.

Something to pray about:

Thank You for seeing the best, even when I often see the worst. Jesus, I love You for that! You are the single most positive influence in my life. You are faithful to meet me in the strangest places. I am grateful for the thrill of being able to call You “friend”.

“To know Him is to love Him.
To love Him is to want to know Him more.”
**Loving Jesus Through Worship** (20 minutes)

You can use songs from your iPod and just play them. Or if someone in your group plays guitar, let them lead you in worship. (This is a good thing to delegate to someone in your group and let them plan the worship time.)

**Instruction through His Word** (30 minutes)

READ Colossians 1:1-14.

What was the spiritual condition of your home as you were growing up?

What can we learn about the spiritual condition of the Colossian church from these opening paragraphs?

Verse 6 mentions “grace in all its truth”. What does it mean to understand grace “in all its truth”? How do people sometimes misunderstand the message of God’s grace?

READ verses 13-14 again. We have traded kingdoms. A kingdom is a king’s domain. Who is the king of darkness? If a kingdom reflects its king, what does Satan’s kingdom say about him? What does Jesus’ kingdom say about Him? (cf. Romans 14:17)

Agree/disagree. “Anyone who is not saved is living for Satan” (Why do you agree/disagree?)

Why is forgiveness of our sins necessary for us to join Jesus’ kingdom?

Jesus forgives my sins, but I keep on sinning. Why?

Which is easier for you: forgive others when they sin against you, or forgiving yourself when you sin against God? Why?

Verse 14 says that you have “redemption”. This is a cool concept! What happens when you “redeem” something? Now, apply this to you as a person. Jesus has “redeemed” you. What does this mean for you?

Jesus is the Redeemer. This means that He is constantly looking to redeem the junk from our lives and turn it into treasure. What is Jesus redeeming in you lately? Or, what would you like to give to Jesus so He can redeem it? Any trash that you would like Him to transform into treasure?

**Fellowship in Prayer for one another** (20 minutes)

Take time to pray for one another’s needs. Especially focus in on what has been shared in the meeting. If there is something that someone wants to be redeemed, lay hands on them and pray for them.

**Evangelism**

As a group, is there anyone for whom you can be praying who does not yet know Jesus as Savior? Strategize as a group for how you can work together to bring your friends to Jesus.
L.o.ving Jesus Through Worship (20 minutes)

You can use songs from your ipod and just play them. Or if someone in your group plays guitar, let them lead you in worship. (This is a good thing to delegate to someone in your group and let them plan the worship time.)

I.nstruction through His Word (30 minutes)

READ Colossians 1:15-23 & 2:9-10.

Throughout your life, who has been a “hero” to you? Why has that person been so special?

These verses express the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Why is it so important to understand exactly who Jesus is?

From what we read here, what is Jesus’ relationship to God? What is His relationship to you?

According to verse 20, what was God’s purpose in coming to earth?

Many people think of Jesus as 50/50, half man and half God, as though He is some sort of hybrid. This is not true. Jesus is 100/100, fully God and fully man. Why is it necessary for us that Jesus be 100/100?

What before and after story do you see in verses 21-23?

What is “the gospel” as defined in verses 21-23?

In summary, Jesus rules! Yet sometimes, it appears that there are other forces ruling. In your life, what people, or forces seem to be stronger than Jesus? Why?

How do you respond to the truth that even these things are under Jesus’ authority?

Take another look at Colossians 2:10. “You have been given fullness in Christ”. Is there any area of your life that is not full? (Let’s pray about that tonight!)

F.ellowship in Prayer for one another (20 minutes)

Take time to pray for one another’s needs. Especially focus in on what has been shared in the meeting. If someone has shared a problem or issue that seems to dominate them right now, stop and pray for them. Allow the group to minister God’s truth to them. (This is the important part of your meeting!)

E.vangelism

As a group, is there anyone for whom you can be praying who does not yet know Jesus as Savior? Strategize as a group for how you can work together to bring your friends to Jesus.
L.i.f.e. Group Meeting Guide
Week 3: When Christ collides with our weakness

Loving Jesus Through Worship (20 minutes)
You can use songs from your ipod and just play them. Or if someone in your group plays guitar, let them lead you in worship. (This is a good thing to delegate to someone in your group and let them plan the worship time.)

Instruction through His Word (30 minutes)
READ Colossians 2:6-23
Would you describe yourself as being “religious”? Why or why not?
Verse 6 speaks of living “IN” Christ. What does this mean? How do we accomplish this?
In what ways has “hollow and deceptive philosophy” affected us today?
According to verse 13, how did God bring life to you?
Take verses 13-15 and put them in your own words. How would you explain this in your own words?
If God raised Jesus from the dead, and if God raised us from the dead as He did Jesus, what does this mean for your daily life and the problems you face?
Verse 16 begins with “therefore” which means it is the application of verses 9-15. Given the truths of verses 9-15, why should we guard against becoming religious and following religious rules?
What does it mean to be “dead to the world”? (verse 20)
Why does religion fail us? Why does it lack the power to change our hearts?
Have you ever invited the Holy Spirit to transform your heart? What could your life look like if the Holy Spirit were given control over you? Tonight, let’s pray for one another to be filled with the Spirit, to be controlled by Him and His gracious workings in our hearts.

Fellowship in Prayer for one another (20 minutes)
Take time to pray for one another’s needs. Especially focus in on what has been shared in the meeting. Especially, pray for one another to be filled with the Spirit. Lay hands on one another and ask for a fresh filling of His power to transform our lives.

Evangelism
As a group, is there anyone for whom you can be praying who does not yet know Jesus as Savior? Strategize as a group for how you can work together to bring your friends to Jesus.
Loving Jesus Through Worship (20 minutes)

You can use songs from your ipod and just play them. Or if someone in your group plays guitar, let them lead you in worship. (This is a good thing to delegate to someone in your group and let them plan the worship time.)

Instruction through His Word (30 minutes)

READ Colossians 1:24-2:5

What is the biggest lie you have ever told? (Have you ever told a whopper?)

Without getting too negative, let’s take a moment to list some of the biggest lies that dominate our modern culture.

Why is the message of Jesus Christ a “mystery”? How does the mystery set us up for being lied to? If the mystery makes us susceptible to lies, why do you think God has done it this way? (Why not just be straight out with it?)

The mystery is “Christ in you, the hope of glory”. Sounds cool! What is it? What does this look like in our daily lives? What does it mean practically for us?

Everyone brings lies into their relationship with Jesus. We have all believed in wrong things. Then, as we grow in Christ, those lies get replaced with truth. Can you identify any lies that have been active in your own life? How have they affected your relationship with Jesus?

In 2:2 Paul states his purpose for writing. Has this purpose become a reality in your own life? How so? How not?

“The root of most of our struggles is that we have believed a lie.” Do you agree with this or disagree? Why?

Jesus said, “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” Is there an area of your life where you lack freedom? What is the lie beneath it? What truth will break it? Let’s pray for one another!

Fellowship in Prayer for one another (20 minutes)

Take time to pray for one another’s needs. Especially focus in on what has been shared in the meeting.

Evangelism

As a group, is there anyone for whom you can be praying who does not yet know Jesus as Savior? Strategize as a group for how you can work together to bring your friends to Jesus.
Loving Jesus Through Worship (20 minutes)

You can use songs from your ipod and just play them. Or if someone in your group plays guitar, let them lead you in worship. (This is a good thing to delegate to someone in your group and let them plan the worship time.)

Instruction through His Word (30 minutes)

READ Colossians 3:1-17

When buying clothes, what is the biggest priority for you? (cost, fit, style, brand, etc.) Why?

What is the difference between setting your heart on things above and setting your mind on things above?

How does setting our mind/heart on things above help us to put to death the things of our sinful nature?

Notice that verse 5 and verse 12 both contain the word “therefore”. Each “therefore” is an application point for setting our mind/heart on Christ. Put these two application points into your own words. How would you summarize them?

This passage uses clothing as a word picture for what needs to happen in our lives. We take off the old sinful clothes and put on new, holy clothing. In your experience is spiritual growth as easy as putting off and putting on clothing? Why or why not?

In your own life, what old behaviors do not seem to fit you any more? What new behaviors fit you better?

Verse 5 tells us to “put to death” some things. But in verse 8 we are told to “rid yourself” of other things. What is the difference? Why do some things need to be put to death but others just need to be thrown out?

In your life, what needs to be put to death? What needs to be thrown out? How can we as a group help one another in this process?

Fellowship in Prayer for one another (20 minutes)

Take time to pray for one another’s needs. Especially focus in on what has been shared in the meeting.

Evangelism

As a group, is there anyone for whom you can be praying who does not yet know Jesus as Savior? Strategize as a group for how you can work together to bring your friends to Jesus.
Loving Jesus Through Worship (20 minutes)

You can use songs from your ipod and just play them. Or if someone in your group plays guitar, let them lead you in worship. (This is a good thing to delegate to someone in your group and let them plan the worship time.)

Instruction through His Word (30 minutes)

READ Colossians 3:18-4:1

In your home growing up, which tv family was most like your own? (The Cleavers; Andy Griffith: Brady Bunch; The Bundy’s; etc.) Why?

Instead of breaking this down by individual commands to wives, husbands, kids, etc. Let’s take the commands as a whole: submission, love, obedience, encouragement, hard work.

What does submission look like in a home?

How does a home that is filled with genuine love function?

And obedience…is obedience just for the kids? Why or why not?

Fathers are told specifically to “not embitter, but to encourage”. However, encouragement is something we all need. So how can your home become a more encouraging place?

Slaves are told to work hard as for the Lord. In your opinion, are most Christians known for their work ethic? Why or why not? In our homes, how do we teach our families the value of hard work in a way that doesn’t turn them into workaholics?

Truthfully, is Jesus the leader of your home? Is He “president” or just a “resident”? Or perhaps, He is only a guest? What needs to happen in your home for Jesus to take His rightful place as Lord if it?

Fellowship in Prayer for one another (20 minutes)

Take time to pray for one another’s needs. Especially focus in on what has been shared in the meeting.

Evangelism

As a group, is there anyone for whom you can be praying who does not yet know Jesus as Savior? Strategize as a group for how you can work together to bring your friends to Jesus.
Loving Jesus Through Worship (20 minutes)

You can use songs from your ipod and just play them. Or if someone in your group plays guitar, let them lead you in worship. (This is a good thing to delegate to someone in your group and let them plan the worship time.)

Instruction through His Word (30 minutes)

READ Colossians 4:2-6

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? “God believes in you more than you do.” Why?

Does Paul’s prayer request in verse 4 surprise you? Why or why not?

How can we make the most of every opportunity for sharing the gospel with others?

How can we as a Life Group “be wise” in the way we act toward those outside of our group?

What does a conversation that is “seasoned with salt” look like?

Look at Colossians 4:17. Why do you think Paul specifically calls out Archippus to finish his ministry? (By the way, we really don’t know the full reason why, but it’s a good discussion point.)

Is there a ministry in your own life that needs to be completed? How so? Perhaps there is a ministry which needs to begin? What is it and how can we help you with it?

Fellowship in Prayer for one another (20 minutes)

Take time to pray for one another’s needs. Especially focus in on what has been shared in the meeting. Lay hands on one another, praying for God’s anointing as you ministry.

Evangelism

As a group, is there anyone for whom you can be praying who does not yet know Jesus as Savior? Strategize as a group for how you can work together to bring your friends to Jesus.
Loving Jesus Through Worship (20 minutes)

You can use songs from your ipod and just play them. Or if someone in your group plays guitar, let them lead you in worship. (This is a good thing to delegate to someone in your group and let them plan the worship time.)

Instruction through His Word (30 minutes)

READ Colossians 2:6-7.

As our time in this series comes to a close, let’s share some testimonies! How have you experienced Christ in a deeper way during these past 8 weeks?

How will you carry this experience on in your life, continuing to “live in Him”?

In what ways has Jesus become more real to you in the last 8 weeks?

READ Revelation 1:12-18.

The Apostle John was Jesus’ best friend on earth. Yet when John saw Jesus in this way, he fell facedown “as though dead”. What’s going on here?

How has your own perspective of Jesus changed in recent months?

Jesus is not a doctrine to study. He is a Person to know. Do you know Him?

Let’s talk about where to take this experience next. You have begun to encounter Jesus, now what?

Fellowship in Prayer for one another (20 minutes)

Take time to pray for one another’s needs. Especially focus in on what has been shared in the meeting. Go around your group and pray Ephesians 1:17-18 for one another. Literally pray the words, asking God to give each other a “spirit of wisdom and revelation to know Him better.”

Evangelism

As a group, is there anyone for whom you can be praying who does not yet know Jesus as Savior? Strategize as a group for how you can work together to bring your friends to Jesus.