

Opening Question

Do you know someone who has experienced incredible life change – someone whose life at one point totally turned around? Who were they, and what is their story?

Read Together

Colossians 1:1-6

Big Idea

When we experience the gospel, everything changes. Absolutely everything.

Discussion Questions

1. What do we know about these people in the city of Colossae? What does Paul tell us about them as he begins to write? (verses 1-2)
2. How does Paul describe what salvation/faith in Jesus has done in the lives of these believers in Colossae? (verses 4-5)
3. How does our faith and love flow from or spring up from the hope that we have in heaven? (verse 5)
4. In what ways does Paul describe what the good news of the gospel actually does to us?
5. We often gloss over the triad of faith, hope and love because we hear the words so often. Those 3 words, though, are the marks of spiritual life. Look up the following passages and see if you can identify how these words are related to one another and how they are evidenced in our lives as followers of Christ. 1 Cor. 3:13; Hebrews 10:22-24 and 1 Peter 1:3-5; 22.
6. When did you receive the gospel? Do you see a connection between your experience and that of the Colossians?
7. Can you find one word to describe what Jesus entering the lives of the Colossians has done to them? Can you find one word to describe what Jesus entering your life has meant to you?

Challenge

This week commit to reading through Paul's letter to the Colossians at least twice. It will take you 12-15 minutes.

Prayer

Take time to pray a prayer of dedication of your small group to the Lord as you engage in the study and application of Colossians in our Rooted series this fall. Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Ask Him to change you as a result of your focus on the word of God.

Next Steps

This week take advantage of the various translations and paraphrases of the Bible that are available online at biblegateway.com. When you read through Colossians, try reading it in a translation or paraphrase you've never read before like The Message or JB Phillips.

