

LifeGroup Shepherd Guide

March 1st – Colossians: The Gospel Truth

This guide is designed to help prepare you for your next group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

1. Have you ever written a letter or a note to someone you've never met in person before? The entire message was written about what they had heard about you. If that were the case, what do you think people would write about you based on what they had heard about you?

Digging In**Read Colossians 1:3-7**

Pastor Jeff notes that the entire book of Colossians is describing the supremacy of Jesus. Not only is Jesus' supremacy described, but it makes us ask this specific reflection question, "**How is Jesus supreme in my life?**"

1. Paul focuses on two aspects of Christian virtues in **verses 4-5**, Faith and Love. Both of these come from having a hope (v. 5) in the word of Truth, the Gospel. How does your faith and love expressed to other people show itself when you put your hope in the Gospel? In what ways has that been evident in your life this week?
2. Verse 5 talks about the phrase, "Word of Truth". Pastor Jeff breaks down the importance of what this phrase points to, and the two things this phrase focuses on.
 - a. **God's Word (John 17:17)**
 - i. Are there areas of your life where God's Word hasn't changed you? What do you think Jesus means when He says, "your word is truth?"
 - b. **Jesus (John 14:6)**
 - i. In our culture, a claim like this seems extremely exclusive. Why does Jesus say this and what does it mean for our lives?
3. How do I know if I have trusted the Word of Truth, and put my faith in the Gospel?
 - a. **Repentance – Changing of mind (Matthew 4:17)**
 - i. Repentance means to change your mind in a decisive way. God will change our minds when it comes to the way we live. How have you seen God change your mind as it

relates to sin and yourself? Are there specific times you can think of where you have noticed this change of mind?

b. Obedience – Changing of direction (John 14:15)

- i. Faith is always closely tied to obedience. Our obedience reflects genuine faith. **(1 John 2:3)**. How have I seen God helping me obey the things He has asked of me? What is one way I have obeyed Jesus through His word this week?

- 4. Pastor Jeff used an illustration with two hats, an Ohio State hat and a Michigan hat. This illustration was pointing to true repentance and obedience. Jeff could wear the Ohio State hat, and say he was a true fan, but that wouldn't be proof of his fandom. The only proof of his fandom would be going to the Horseshoe and spending his time, money and energy cheering for OSU. Once our mind has been changed, our obedience will PROVE your transformation. Does your life currently prove your devotion to Jesus? How or how not?

Taking it Home

- 1. What is one thing you're currently struggling to obey God with? How could you help address that area of struggle this week?
- 2. **Read 2 Corinthians 10:5-6.** Allow this to be your prayer this week as you actively pursue obedience to Jesus.

Praise / Prayer Requests

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