

Life Group Leader's Guide

For the week of January 7th, 2018

Quick Review

We are resuming our study in the book of Colossians. In his sermon on Colossians 2:1-5, Pastor Mark said God's ultimate secret revealed to people is Jesus. In that, God's desire for us as believers is for us to become more like His Son in "spirit, character, and mission."

What stood out to you from the message?

Leaders, optional opening question: What characteristic of Jesus do you most love?

My Story

What New Year's resolutions have you made? Any of your resolutions spiritual? What led you to make them?

Digging Deeper

Read together Colossians 2:1-5.

1. In verse two, Paul says he has a goal for the believers. What is that goal? (Leaders, Paul says in vs. 2 that his goal for these believers is for them to "be encouraged in heart and united in love) What is the result of Paul's goal for the believers? (The result is "the full riches of complete understanding", so they may know Christ)
2. How would you like to see our Life Group encourage your heart and help you grow in your understanding of Christ this year?
3. What are some things our Life Group is currently doing that unites us in love, as Paul mentions in vs. 2? How can we grow in unity and love for one another?

Pastor Mark mentioned the way to know Christ and grow in spiritual maturity is through the written Word of God. Knowledge of God's Word is how we keep from being deceived by "fine-sounding arguments" Paul mentions in vs. 4.

1. What are some "fine-sounding arguments" you hear from the culture?

2. Where are you currently struggling with what God's Word says is true vs. what the culture says is valid?

Leaders, for further study:

Paul in Acts 26 does a masterful job of standing firm in truth when facing pressure from cultural and religious leaders. How is Paul's life an example to us as believers today as we face pressure from the culture to conform to its way of thinking and living?

Read I Peter 5:8,9. What are we as believers called to do to combat Satan's attempts to devour us? How can we practically apply verses 8,9?

Taking it Home

In vs. 5, Paul says it was a "delight" for him to see how "disciplined" and "firm in the faith" the believers in Colossae were. What is godly, Biblical discipline? What do you think of when you hear a believer is "firm in the faith"?

To grow spiritually this year and become more like Jesus, starts with a focus on Him. Read Philippians 2:1-11 (It might be helpful to prayerfully read this several times throughout this week). What did the Holy Spirit bring to your mind from this passage as areas of spiritual growth?