



Colossians



SHEPHERDCHURCH

Week 1: One Epic Prayer

Welcome

If you had to take a long road trip with someone from the Bible (besides Jesus), who would you choose and why?

Worship

As a group, read **Psalm 16** aloud and spend a few moments in silence reflecting on this question: How does this Psalm help you re-center your heart on the joy and security of following God?

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Word

If you haven't already, watch the video lesson and read **Colossians 1:3-14**.

1. In **Colossians 1:3-5**, what qualities does Paul commend in the Colossian believers? What does this reveal about what Paul values in a church community?

2. In **Colossians 1:6**, Paul says the gospel (the good news about Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection) is "bearing fruit and growing" around the world. According to **John 15:1-8** and **Galatians 5:22-23**, how does spiritual fruit grow and what does it look like in the life of a Christian?

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3. It would've been easy to make assumptions about Epaphras because he lived in a culture of self-pleasure and was probably named after Aphrodite (the Greek goddess of love, pleasure, beauty, and procreation). However, he lived for God's glory. What are some cultural labels or "old names" you've left behind to follow Christ more fully? How can you surrender any cultural labels that you're holding onto?

4. In **Colossians 1:9**, Paul prays for the Colossian believers to be filled with the *knowledge* of God's will. The Greek word that Paul uses for knowledge suggests a deep experiential understanding, not just intellectual awareness. How should we pursue such knowledge? What's the difference between having knowledge and knowing God's will?

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5. After reading **Colossians 1:10-11; Ephesians 4:1; and Philippians 1:27**, discuss what a "worthy life" looks like (especially in a culture that defines worth differently than Scripture).

6. In **Colossians 1:12-14**, how does Paul describe both our identity and how we received that identity? (HINT: look closely at the words and metaphors that Paul uses in the verses)

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7. Finish this sentence: "It's worth it to follow Jesus, even when _____."
Share your answer with the group and explain why you believe it's true.

Witness

Brainstorm ways your Life Group can inspire others to follow Jesus. Some ideas might include:

- As a Life Group, write cards or prayers of encouragement to new believers or people who were recently baptized.
- As a Life Group, host a BBQ for the neighborhood where your Life Group meets each week.
- As a Life Group, create a social media post that shares why following Jesus is the best decision that anyone could make.
- As a Life Group, minister to the local community by partnering with **Shepherd GO**.

Discuss the possibilities and try to set a date before your Life Group concludes.

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Personal Reflection & Deeper Study for this Week

- Memorize **Colossians 1:10** or **Colossians 1:10-12**.
- Reflect and write on the following two questions:
 - What has God rescued me from?
 - What is God growing in me?
- Do a deep-dive on Epaphras! Read **Colossians 1:7; 4:12-13; and Philemon 1:23**. Answer the following questions:
 - How is Epaphras described?
 - What does Epaphras do for other Christians?
 - What stands out about his faithfulness?
 - In your life, who is like Epaphras?
 - What does it look like for you to be described as a “faithful servant of Christ”?
- Compare **Ephesians 1:15-23 and Colossians 1:3-14** and answer the following questions:
 - What are Paul’s reasons for writing each passage?
 - How does Paul glorify the Father, Son, and Spirit in each passage?
 - Where does Paul encourage readers in both passages?
 - What are some specific words that Paul uses in both passages?
 - What themes do the passages have in common?
 - In what ways are the passages different?
 - How might these passages deepen your prayer life?