



Grace Group Guide

United Purpose: Together we will designate time and place to deepening our desire for God, caring for and urging each other to action!

United Actions: WL Groups...

- Scripture:** Be in the Word together
- Encouragement:** One another each other
- Prayer:** With and for each other and the lost
- Accountability:** Now What? Put it into action!

Icebreaker (choose one or both):

-Share a story about a time you received good news. Explain why it was such good news, and how you felt after you heard it!

-If someone asked you to explain the gospel to them in a sentence, what would you say? And why?

Transition: In the opening of his letter to the Colossians, Paul packs in a **ton** of theological language to describe the gospel (the good news!) and the Christian life. Today, we're going to take a close look at the language Paul uses in hopes that, afterward, we will have a better understanding of the gospel (and why it is such good news) and how it should impact our lives.

-Discussion-

Read Colossians 1:1-8

- In this passage, Paul connects the gospel to faith (v. 4-5), love (v.4-5), hope (v. 5), and grace (v. 6). Take some time to define each of these words Biblically.

- Possible (not perfect) Definitions:
 - Faith – placing one's trust in something (or, in this case, someone!)
 - Love – giving of self; to prioritize another person's wellbeing above your own and to serve them sacrificially.
 - Hope – a confident expectation that something will happen in the future.
 - Grace – an undeserved gift.
- Possible Teaching Point: All of this makes the gospel such good news! It is rooted in God's grace, it is received by faith, it promises great hope, and it manifests itself in love (and continued faith).

- Transition: Because Paul knows that the Colossians have heard and accepted the "true message of the gospel" (v. 5) through Epaphras (v. 7), he prays for them continually. In verses 9-14, Paul explains what he includes in this prayer.

Read Colossians 1:9-14

- What does Paul pray for in verses 9-14? Make a list.

- Answers:
 - That they would receive a knowledge of God's will through the Spirit
 - That they may live a life worthy of the Lord
 - That they may bear fruit (refer back to v. 6 also)
 - That they may be strengthened so that they might have endurance and patience
 - That they may give joyful thanks to the Father
- Possible Teaching Point: Notice again (if you've already been in the service) that Paul prays for their head (mind/thoughts/knowledge), heart (affections/will), and hands (action).

- How does Paul describe the Father in verses 13-14? Do any of these descriptions stand out to you? And how does this give us a better understanding of the gospel?

- Answers:
 - He has qualified them to share in the inheritance of the saints
 - He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness
 - He has brought us into the kingdom of the Son

- How does Paul describe the Son in v. 14? And how does this give us a better understanding of the gospel?

- Answers:
 - The Son is loved by the Father
 - In the Son, we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins

-Reflection-

- Did anything stand out to you in these verses? If so, why?
- Do you truly believe the gospel is good news? Consider how your life would look different if you wholly embraced this good news and applied it to every area of your life (head, heart, hands).
- Compare Paul's prayer for the Colossians to your own prayer life. What can we learn from Paul's prayer here?
 - **Possible Teaching Point:** Paul's words here highlight the benefits of praying the Scriptures... allowing our own words to be shaped by what Scripture says about God and what it says about us and our relationship to God.

-Application-

- The gospel should impact our head, heart, and hands. If you didn't earlier, brainstorm ways to apply the gospel to each of these areas, and focus on one of them this week.

-Pray-

- Consider making Paul's prayer in verses 9-14 your own. Ask God to give you and your group the same things. And thank God for delivering us from the dominion of darkness and bringing us into the kingdom of the Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.