



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-

- As a group, try to answer these two questions:
 - What does it look like to “worship” something? Scripture repeatedly warns us against idolatry, but how can you tell when you have begun to worship/idolize someone or something?
 - What things are you most prone to worship or idolize? Make a shortlist of five things.

Transition:

We are prone to worship and idolize any number of things... sports, jobs, finances, celebrities, friends, spouses, personal comfort, etc. It isn't always easy to recognize, either. The same has been true for every human, and we have proof of this in Scripture. The same was true in Paul's day, and, in this passage, Paul is going to describe the supremacy of Christ so clearly that his readers could have no doubt about who was worthy of their worship. That includes us! Enjoy this rich passage!!

-Discussion-

Read Colossians 1:15-23

- Did you notice how many times Paul uses the word “all” in this passage? Read through these verses again and either a) circle “all” in your Bible each time it occurs, or b) emphasize the word “all” each time you read it. (Note: the answer is seven times!)
 - Why do you think Paul repeats this word so many times? What is he trying to communicate?
 - **Possible Answer:** The total supremacy of Christ! EVERYTHING in this world is about Him!
- **Note: this is a challenging question.** In verse 15, Paul calls Christ the “firstborn” over all creation, and in verse 18, he calls Christ being the “firstborn” of the dead. What does this “firstborn” language mean? What is Paul saying?
 - **Answer:** Paul is NOT saying that Jesus was created. Jesus is God! The “firstborn” language in v. 15 refers to Christ's occupation of the highest authority (see Psalm 89:27; this is why the NIV translates as “firstborn over creation”) and, in v. 18, to His status as the first to have a resurrected body, which we will later see as well (see 1 Cor. 15:54)

- Twice Paul talks about Christ “reconciling” us to God (vv. 20-22). What does that mean? And how did Christ accomplish this?
 - **Possible Answer:** Biblically, reconciliation is about our restored relationship to God. Christ accomplished this by His physical death on the cross, which enables those of us who have been united with Christ through faith to be seen as holy in God’s sight, without blemish, and free from accusation. What a beautiful truth!!

-Reflection-

- Do you recognize that EVERYTHING in this world is about Christ? More importantly, does your life reflect this? How would your life look different if you viewed the world in this way?
- Are you clinging to any idols? What are they? And how can you keep yourself from worshipping them instead of Christ?
- Verse 23 talks about continuing in the faith, being established and firm. How can we make sure that we do this? What habits do you practice that keep you firm and established in the gospel?

-Application-

- We need to forsake all idols, continue in the faith, and direct all our worship to Christ! Commit to one practical step that will help you do this during the week.

-Pray-

- Lift up praise and thanksgiving to God for Christ... for who He is and what He’s done for you (consider rereading Col. 1:13-14, 21-22)