



# 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-

- Share a story about a failed experiment you've undertaken. Just to stir up some thoughts... maybe you attempted to make a new recipe and it did NOT turn out the way you thought. Or maybe you had a failed DIY project. Or maybe you tried out a new diet, a new exercise plan, a new year's resolution of some kind.
  - **Transition:** In this passage, Paul is going to go into some detail about various teachings that were influential in Colossae. He says they have the appearance of wisdom but, in reality, lack any value. You might say that Paul viewed these other teachings, and the rituals they encouraged, as nothing more than failed experiments.

## -Discussion-

REVIEW: Read Col. 1:6-15

- **Transition:** Paul already introduced the idea that certain "empty" philosophies and human traditions had an influence on the church at Colossae (in v. 8) and contrasted that with the fullness of Christ. In these verses, Paul is going to unpack this even more... What, exactly, were these teachings going around in Colossae?

Read Col. 1:16-23

- If you had to try to summarize these verses in one or two sentences, how would you do it? What is Paul saying? What is the primary issue with all of these different teachings?
- **Leader Note:** In the sermon, Bruce is going to unpack some of the different "-isms" that are present here. It may be helpful to think through some of these as a group as you answer this question, so below is an overview of some of these. **Feel free to use the following as much or as little as you'd like:**
  - Folk Judaism: A form of Judaism that added in other local traditions/beliefs - often about spirit beings, angels, demons, magic, charms, curses, etc.
  - Gnosticism: A belief system that claimed salvation could be gained through a special form of "secret" knowledge. This secret knowledge, which often came in the form of visions, could only be gained by those who were especially spiritual and belonged to special societies.
  - Asceticism: The practice of restrictive habits and disciplines for self-denial. This denial of the self/the body/the material world was seen as a way to attain a higher level of spirituality.
  - Animism: The belief that all things, including animals, plants, rocks, etc. possess a spiritual essence or soul and are worthy of worship.
  - Syncretism: The blending together of multiple religious beliefs/practices into a new system. A "fusion of faiths."

**-Reflection-**

- What are some incorrect teachings ("-isms") prominent today that you are tempted to listen to? And why are they incorrect?
- Thinking back to Col. 2:6-7 (AGAIN!), how can we stay rooted and built up in Christ and resist false teaching?

**-Application-**

- What is one thing you will commit to do this week to help you stay rooted in Christ and resist other false teachings.
- Scripture is our greatest source of truth. Choose a scripture to memorize this week which will help you stand firm against incorrect teachings. An example could be, Colossians 2:13-15 or Phil. 4:8-9.

**-Pray-**

- Ask the Lord to give us strength through the days to rely solely on Him.
- Praise and thank Him for the hope that we have since we have been given a personal relationship with Jesus.