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Study 1: Overview

In your group read through the whole of the book of Colossians.

As you do, note down:

- ❖ Any verses you don't understand
- ❖ Any verses that stand out to you
- ❖ Any questions you want answered

Discuss the following questions.

1. What reasons did you find for why Paul wrote the letter?
2. What themes did you notice? Any words or phrases that are repeated often?
3. From this first reading of Colossians, is there anything God is challenging you about or encouraging you with?

Pray together about the challenges and encouragements shared above.

Study 2: Gospel Prayer

Read Colossians 1:1-14

1. In verses 1&2, how does Paul describe himself and the people he is writing to?
2. Why do you think he starts this way?
3. What is Paul thankful for? (v3-5)
4. Where does the Colossian's faith & love come from? (v5)
5. What three things does Paul say about the gospel in verses 5&6?
6. ***Who brought the Gospel to you? Can you see it bearing fruit of hope, love and faith?***
7. What does Paul ask God for the Colossians? (v9)
8. Why does he pray this? (v10)

9. According to Paul, what does a life (walk) worthy of the Lord look like? (v10-12)

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10. Can you share a time when God has strengthened you with his power to endure?

11. What has the Father done for the Colossians and us? (v12-14)

12. Paul calls the Colossians God's holy and faithful people in Christ (v2). Do you see yourself this way? What difference would it make if this was your core identity?

13. Epaphras brought the gospel to the Colossians. Who can you bring the gospel to?

14. How can we help each other live in a manner pleasing to the Lord?

15. Having seen what Paul prayed for the Colossians, how does that help us pray better for one another?

Study 3: Christ and his Servant

Read Colossians 1:15-23

1. Using the table below, list down all the things Paul says about Christ.

Creation (v15-17)	New Creation (Church) (v18-20)

2. What was the relationship between the Colossians and God previously? (v21)

3. What is the relationship now? How has that been made possible? (v22)

4. What are the Colossians to do? (v23)

5. *Have you been reconciled to God through Christ? Are you holding steadfast to your hope in the Gospel?*

6. What kinds of teaching were threatening to draw the Colossians away from Christ? (v16-23)

7. Why are such teachings attractive?

8. Why are they ultimately of no value?

9. *What teachings are you aware of today that sound “spiritual” but are actually based on human tradition and so are deceptive and empty?*

10. *Have you had personal experience of this kind of teaching? What made it attractive to you? What made it harmful?*

11. *How do we help each other continue to walk in Christ and so resist such dangers?*

Study 5: New Self, New Life

Read Colossians 3:1-17

1. What are we to set our hearts and minds on? (v1-2)

2. What reasons are given? (v1-4)

3. What does this look like in practice? Use the following table to contrast the earthly and godly nature:

Put to death...	Put on...

4. What reasons are given for living this new way? (v5-15)

5. *Why is this so hard for us?*

6. In verse 16, what are we told to do? How do we go about that?

7. *How does this help us live as God's chosen people?*

8. *What does it mean to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus? (v17)*

Study 6: Family and Friends

Read 3:18-4:2

1. Paul has reminded the Colossians they are new people in Christ. In our previous study, we saw how our behaviour changes because of this new identity. We will now see how this affects our household relationships. Complete the table below:

Wives	Husbands
Children	Fathers
Slaves	Masters

2. What reasons are given for the instructions to each person?

3. *What are the challenges we face in reflecting Christ in our household relationships? How can we encourage each other to do this better?*

4. *Personally, what changes do you need to make in how you relate to the members of your household?*

Read Colossians 4:2-4:6

5. How does Paul want the Colossians to pray?
6. Specifically, what does Paul want them to pray for?
7. *In turn, who can we be praying for in this way?*
8. How does Paul want the Colossians to act towards outsiders?
9. *What does it mean for our speech to be gracious and seasoned with salt?*

Read Colossians 4:7-18

10. How does Paul describe his fellow-workers? What does he commend them for?
11. How would these greetings be an encouragement to the Colossian church?
12. *Now we've finished our studies in Colossians, recall one thing you've been personally challenged or encouraged by, and one thing you think challenges or encourages us as a community. Share with the group and pray about these things.*