



Colossians: Jesus Over Everything

October 8 – Colossians 3:18-4:1 | Group Discussion Guide

Begin with silence and prayer (5 minutes).

Instruct your group that you'll begin your time together in silence pondering truths about God and our current circumstances and realities. After a few moments, as the leader, slowly share these truths:

God is good. He is faithful. He is merciful. He is above all things. He is great. God loves you. He is with you. He knows your struggles. He is with your marriage, your children, and your work. He will never fail you. He is in control. Jesus is over everything.

After you've finished, have someone in the group pray for your time together.

Split into smaller groups to read the passage and discuss (15 minutes).

Take a few minutes to read Colossians 3:18-4:1. Once you've finished reading, answer the following questions:

- This passage is full of instructions for marriage, parenting, and work. Which part resonated with your current circumstance as you read it?
- In verses 18-19, Paul instructs wives to submit and husbands to love. Describe what these mean to you and what feelings arise in you.
- Within verses 19-21, Paul instructs men to not be harsh with their wives, and then parents (fathers) not to aggravate/exasperate their children. As couples and parents, we would never allow others to speak to our spouses harshly or treat

our children in this way, so we must ask the question of ourselves: “why do we?” Think about this question as it pertains to your own life and if you struggle with it. Share your reflections with group.

- The last five verses discuss how both employers and employees should interact with one another and how you should view yourself and the work you are doing. Verses 22-23 call us to work for God, not man. Do you find this difficult to live out? If this is a struggle, share what keeps you from living this way in your own work environment.
- What are practical ways to grow and change your mindset at work for good?

Once you’ve finished with these questions, spend one minute reflecting on your conversation. Is there anything that’s sticking with you from God’s word? Share this with the group.

Come back together as a large group to talk about the sermon (30 minutes).

- What about the sermon was new and/or refreshing to you this week?
- From the sermon or your previous discussion in smaller groups, what is biblical submission of a wife and love of a husband supposed to look like? Read Ephesians 5:21 if needed.
- Shan and Lise shared that one major reason children walk away from faith as young adults is due to the hypocrisy of their parents – that it comes down to example. Why is example so important for others? What are ways to be honest with your kids about your example?
- This passage puts Jesus at the center of our work. Both our practical work and our witness in our workplace should reflect Jesus. How have you seen this played out in your workplace? Are there opportunities to wisely and respectfully do it more?
- Towards the end of the sermon, Lise went through a list of questions about how we live, and how others see our marriages, parenting, and work personas. Within these questions, we are left to ask just one: If Jesus is over *my* everything, how can I behave in a way that make the gospel more appealing to those around me?

Encourage your group to carry and reflect on this final question throughout the week.

Finish with logistics and prayer (10 minutes).

1. Make sure to inform your group about the study material available to help you walk through the text of Colossians! You can find that material at thecreek.org/devotionals.
2. Finish your group session with prayer.

Break everyone down into triads to end the night with prayer for one another. In the groups, have people share "What is on your heart that you need prayer for?" and then spend time praying for those things.