

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 19, 2010

Passage: Colossians 3:1-4

Memory Passage: Col. 3:1

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 1 & 2:** In an effort not to lose our focus on the big picture of Colossians, spend today re-reading the first two chapters and write down a summary statement for each section we have covered.

(b) What truth has struck you most profoundly during your study of these two chapters? What application has brought you the most sanctification during the past several months? With which truth have you wrestled most? Is there anything in these verses you are having a hard time understanding?

(c) *Family:* Spend time as a family reading aloud chapters 1 & 2 of Colossians. Read it in sections, and then have everyone discuss a theme for each section, or a main teaching of each section. If you need help dividing the chapters, try this division: 1:1-2; 3-8; 9-14; 15-20; 21-23; 24-29; 2:1-5; 6-7; 8-15; 16-23.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 3:1-3.** Why does Paul begin v. 1 with “if”? (Try to remember the sermon on 2:20-23). What does Paul want us to do with the statement that follows?

(b) What does Paul tell us to do after we have contemplated our resurrected status?

(c) **Read Matt. 6:33; 7:7-11; 13:45-46.** Write down what you learn about “seeking.” How do these verses help you to obey the command found in Col. 3:1?

(d) *Family:* Prepare a scavenger hunt prior to leading this lesson in which you hide 6-8 items throughout your house or your living area. Make half of the items desirable material items (candy, money, a coupon that allows a child to skip chores and watch TV, etc), and half desirable spiritual items (Scripture reference, a coupon which allows a child to skip chores and spend time in prayer or listen to a sermon, a Christian-themed book, etc). Tell everyone what items they are searching for, and then tell everyone that they can keep only 3 items (if you have 3 material and three spiritual items) or 4 (if you have 4 & 4). If they find an item they would rather not keep, they must give it to you while they continue to search for items they desire to keep. After the items are all found, **Read Col. 3:1** and teach about seeking spiritual things rather than material things.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Psalm 110:1, Matt. 22:41-46, Eph 1:20 & Col. 3:1.** Write down what you learn about the phrase, “seated at the right hand of God.”

(b) What does this teach us about the person of Jesus in relation to God? What are the implications for our understanding of the phrase in Col. 3:1 and the command to “seek the things that are above” that precedes it?

(c) Why is the fact of being spiritually raised with Christ important in understanding how to obey the command in Col. 3:1?

(d) *Family:* Go to this website and print the picture of the throne room at Buckingham Palace: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/castlekay/2634233711/> Ask: “Upon which chair would the most powerful person sit?” (Point to the small chairs next to the throne and on the side of the room first, then to the thrones on the pedestal and have people vote). Depending on which throne they say would represent the most powerful (they may not be able to choose between the thrones, they may pick the one on the right, they may say there is no difference, etc), begin a discussion that leads them to the truth that the thrones represent equal rank. **Read Psalm 110:2 & Col. 3:1** and discuss what this means for Jesus to sit at God’s right hand.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 8:5-11.** According to v. 5, what two ways can you live? What is the mind of each of these ways set upon? What do each of these ways of living produce (v. 6)?

(b) What are the three characteristics of the mind set on the flesh (v. 7-8)? Summarize life in the Spirit (vs. 9-11).

(c) **Reread Col. 3:1-2.** Why does Paul use the phrase “set your minds on” in v. 2 compared to “seek” in v. 1? Is he saying the same thing? Is he saying something different? Why do you think this?

(d) How does Romans 5:5-11 help us to understand how to obey Col. 3:2? What is the difference between setting your mind on the things above opposed to the things on the earth? Make a list of things on the earth that captivate your mind and thinking. Now write next to each one how you will replace this captivation with things from above. Be specific!

(e) *Family*: Come prepared with a math or word problem appropriate for each age group you have (if you like, you can use the riddle Jesus asked the Pharisees to solve in Matt. 22:41-46. The key is to remember that a son was never thought to be greater than his father). After everyone works a while on their puzzle/problem, ask them what they were thinking about while they worked. Were they thinking about anything other than their problem? Explain that each of them “set their mind on” the task at hand, and their devotion was single-minded. Then **Read Col. 3:1-2** and discuss the difference between “seeking” the things above and “set your mind on” things above, using the single-minded focus they had while solving puzzles as your object lesson.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Phil. 3:7-15**. What are the 5 (or 6, depending on how you count them) things Paul hopes to gain in these verses? Write a brief description of each of these gains.

(b) What is Paul giving up to gain these things? What things do you consider “gain” that you need to give up, to count for loss and rubbish, so that you may gain Christ? How will you accomplish this?

(c) In v. 11 Paul desires to attain the resurrection from the dead, but in Col. 3:1 he says that we have already been raised with Christ. How can this be?

(d) How does Phil. 3:7-15 help us obey the commands of Col. 3:1-2?

(e) *Family*: Pass out paper and crayons/markers and have everyone draw a picture of their most prized possession. Encourage them to think through this and choose something that they have placed a high value upon. After everyone draws, have them explain what their drawing is and why it is so highly prized. Then Read Phil. 3:7-15 and emphasize that Paul counted “everything”, “whatever gain” he had as loss and rubbish compared to knowing Jesus. Paint a vivid picture of the value of Jesus and our relationship with Him by teaching through these verses (“knowing,” “gain,” be found in him,” with “righteousness that comes from God” in order to “attain the resurrection from the dead” etc.). Explain that He is infinitely more valuable than their most highly prized possession.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Col. 3:1-4. What does Paul mean when he writes that “your life is hidden with Christ in God?” How should this bring you comfort in the days to come? What does it have to do with “seeking” and “setting your mind on” things above?

(b) Paul says that Christ “is your life” (v. 4). How can this be? What does it mean? Why does it matter? (Read John 14:19; Gal. 2:20; Phil 1:21 to help you fully answer this question.

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