

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

**In preparation for Sunday, July 11, 2010**

**Passage: Colossians 1:21-23**

Memory Passage: Col. 1:22 (children memorize the first section of this verse: "He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death")

**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. 1:21-23.** In these verses Paul turns to apply to the Colossians the doctrine he taught in the hymn (vs. 15-20). Why do you think Paul begins with the Colossians past ("you were . . .") as he applies these grand truths to their lives?

(b) What does Paul mean when he says that the Colossians used to be "alienated, hostile in mind"? Eph. 4:17-20 for clarity.

(c) How did your life prior to salvation resemble the Colossians' pre-salvation life? How would you have described it at the time (while still unsaved)? What is the difference between these 2 descriptions (how you viewed your pre-Christian life while you lived it vs. how you view it today)?

(d) Is there any value to remembering your pre-Christian past? If so, what is the value? If not, why not?

(e) *Family:* Pass out blank paper and crayons or markers. As you explain v. 21 (explaining "alienated," "hostile in mind" & "evil deeds") using examples from life & from Scripture (i.e. tell a story of someone being alienated from a friend/family; read what Paul did to Christians prior to being saved on the Damascus road to illustrate "hostile in mind," etc), have each person draw what comes to their mind. Then have each person explain what they drew and then you summarize the effects on sin on/in their drawing. Collect the drawings for use in tomorrow's lesson.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 1:21-23:** Think for a moment what it would be like to be alienated from your closest relationship or close group of friends. How would you feel? Think of all the ways you would ordinarily come into contact with this friend/these friends, and write down all the emotions you would experience.

(b) Now think of someone you know who does not know Christ, preferably someone with whom you have had a difficult time connecting about spiritual things. Look at the list of emotions you wrote down in question #1 and realize that spiritually this person feels all of these emotions (even though they might not know it) because they are alienated from God. How might you better relate to them, love them, witness to them, engage them with the hope that is within you now that you better understand, or are thinking differently about, their spiritual disposition.

(c) What a joy to read in v. 23 (especially after thinking about answering these questions from yesterday & today): "yet He has now reconciled you"! In what ways is this little word "yet" important? How does it affect what Paul said in v. 21? In what ways does it affect what you wrote in the answers to questions 2-4 yesterday?

(d) *Family:* Pass out the drawings from yesterday, along with a separate clean sheet of paper. Ask: "What can you remember from last week that we learned about the word reconciled? (Be ready to re-teach this concept by filling in any gaps in the answers given, or if no answer is given) Recall the stories you used from yesterday, and retell them with reconciliation involved (i.e. explain being reconciled in the broken relationship; explain Paul's salvation experience and how it changed him) and ask everyone to draw new pictures as you tell these stories, focusing on the joy of reconciliation. Have each one explain their picture as you highlight the effects of reconciliation on/in their drawing.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 1:21-23.** What do you think Paul means when he uses the term "fleshly" to describe Christ's body in v. 22?

(b) What are the 3 terms Paul uses to describe those who Christ will present (v. 22)? Describe each of these terms. When will this presentation take place?

(c) Make a "before & after" list by comparing the characteristics of the alienated (before) & the reconciled (after). Spend some time in prayer thanking God for His provision of reconciliation through Christ, and for all the benefits you listed in your "after" column.

(d) *Family:* Make a chart (on a whiteboard, a chalkboard, butcher paper taped to a wall, etc) with 2 columns, one headed "enemy" and one headed "reconciled." Instruct everyone to listen for characteristics of each type of person (either enemy or reconciled) as you slowly read Col. 1:21-23. As they hear them, have them raise their hand. Have the group decide in which column the characteristic belongs, and then choose a different person to write each characteristic on the board.

**DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Matt. 7:24-27.** What is the main topic of this parable?
- (b) What is the key difference between the 2 builders? What do the rain, floods & winds represent in the life of the believer? What do the 2 foundations represent?
- (c) How does this parable help us understand the phrase “continue in the faith firmly established & steadfast” in Col 1:23?
- (d) What does a life look like (describe it in some detail) that is continuing in the faith?
- (e) *Family:* **Read Matt. 7:24-27.** Act out this parable by having your family build a house with Legos or Lincoln Logs or any type of building block/toy. Prepare a place to build on a concrete patio or flat sidewalk and another place in loose dirt or sand (dig up the dirt so it is loose or buy a bag of sand at Wal-Mart & put it in a large plastic container or box). Be ready with “rain, floods & wind”! (a hose would work nicely!) Teach about the different parts of the parable (i.e. builder on the rock=obedient to Christ’s word; sand=anything but Christ, etc).

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Col. 1:21-23.** In v. 23, what condition does Paul place upon a believer in order to be reconciled?
- (b) How would you counsel someone who was struggling with this verse because they thought that they could lose their salvation if they failed to continue in the faith? What Scripture passages would you use?
- (c) From what you have learned so far in Col. 1, what is the “hope of the gospel” Paul refers to in v. 21? The language Paul uses in v. 23 presupposes that they will not move away (i.e. “If you continue, and I’m sure you will”). Why would Paul be so sure the Colossians would not move away from this “hope of the Gospel”? How were they tempted to move away?
- (d) Re-read Col. 1:12-14. Spend some time comparing 1:12-14 with 1:21-23. What similarities do you see? How does one passage more fully explain the other?
- (e) *Family:* Be ready to reward (with candy or fruit or coins etc.) for correct answers as you check the retention level of your family concerning what they have learned so far in Colossians. Come up with your own list of questions beforehand, but here are some examples: Who wrote the letter? To whom did he write it? Why did Paul give thanks for the Colossians? What is the Gospel? Etc.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) Use this day to read the entire book of Colossians. Write down any questions that you have as you read so you can find answers as we study this wonderful epistle together!
- (b) If you are leading a group, the following questions might lead to more profitable discussion than others: 1a, b, c, d; 2:b, c; 3a, b; 4c, d; 5b, d

**DATE:** July 11 2010

**PASSAGE:** Colossians 1:21-23

*The Supremacy of Christ Part III:  
Christ is the Supreme Redeemer*