

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 8, 2010

Passage: Colossians 2:6-7

Memory Passage: Col. 2:6-7 (Younger children can memorize only v. 6 if necessary).

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. 2:6-7.** Paul begins this verse with the word “therefore.” What is the “therefore” there for? In other words, on what basis is Paul about to exhort us?
- (b) Describe what you think it means to “receive Christ.”
- (c) **Read 1 Cor. 11:23; 15:1, 3; Gal. 1:9, 12; 1 Thess. 4:1 & 2 Thess. 3:6.** What is “received” in each of these verses?
- (d) What is different about what Paul talks about receiving in Col. 2:6 compared to all of the other verses you just read? Given how Paul often uses the word “receive,” what would you say he means when he says that the Colossian believers have “received Christ?” How does this differ from your answer in question (b)?
- (e) *Family:* Write down a short description of a scene that will be passed around to each member of you family (i.e. “There were three monkeys with bananas in their ears sitting on the fence playing chess with 3 cows eating cheese fries.”). Begin by having one person read the story silently and then whisper it to the person on his/her right, who in turn whispers it to the person on his/her right. Whisper the story around the circle twice if you only have 3 or 4 people. At the end, have the last person say what they think the sentence is and compare it to what is written down. It is likely that the story will morph into something different, so use this as an object lesson to explain why we must keep our reading of Scripture in context. Read Col. 2:6-7 and ask, “What is the “therefore” there for?” and explain that things can get confusing, just like our story, if we don’t keep our reading in context. Lead in a discussion of what they remember from Col. 2:1-5 (which is the grounds for Paul’s “therefore.”)

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Colossians 2:6-7.** Col. 1:6 contains the only NT occurrence of the exact phrase, “Christ Jesus the Lord.” The grammar of this verse tells us the “Lord” describes “Christ Jesus” so the passage means: “Christ Jesus, the One who is Lord.” What significance does this wording have for understanding what the Colossians have “received?”
- (b) Many people today teach that one can receive Jesus as Savior (“Christ”) and not Lord. Is their teaching true or false? Why (make sure you use Scripture to back up your answer!)? How would you counsel a person who asked you, “I received Jesus as Savior when I was saved but now I am ready to surrender to Him as Lord as well. Can you help me do that?” (Again, remember to make your counsel from Scripture).
- (c) *Family:* Find a ball that cannot be squished or have air let out of it. Form a circle and toss the ball to someone and say: “I want you to receive (i.e. catch) this ball without catching a circle.” Ask if they were able to do this (the answer must be “no.”) and then try with each person in the group. Then say, “In the same way you cannot catch this ball without catching a circle because they are one in the same, you cannot receive Christ as Savior without receiving Him as Lord because they are one in the same.” Read Col. 2:6 and explain that “Christ” refers to Jesus as “Messiah,” “Jesus” refers to Him as “Savior,” and “Lord” refers to Him as “Master.” (Christ comes from the Hebrew word for Messiah, anointed one; Jesus comes from the Hebrew word for Savior).

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Col. 2:6 & Col. 1:9-12.** Write down everything you remember learning about your walk from our study of Col. 1:9-12 a couple of months ago.
- (b) In what ways has the Spirit led you into greater obedience to Christ since your study of Col. 1:9-12? In what ways do you desire to be more obedient? Spend some time in prayer right now thanking God for sanctification, repenting of any disobedience, and asking God to renew your fervor to glorify Him in obedience in these areas.
- (c) “Walk in Him” is the first command that Paul gives us in Colossians. What does he mean for us to do? Why does he use “in Jesus” to describe our walk?
- (d) *Family:* Read Col. 2:6 & 1:9-12. Ask everyone to remember back to the lesson where they walked in different ways to demonstrate what each walk said about that person. Remind them that “walk” in Scripture refers to our lives. Lead everyone in a discussion that centers around what our walk should look like, and remind them throughout the discussion of the areas that were covered back in May. Ask them to think about whether or not they have grown in these areas during the last several

months, and lead your family in a prayer of thanksgiving (for God's sanctification through our obedience) and repentance (for areas we are still in disobedience) and praise (for God's forgiving grace for His children when we fail).

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Colossians 2:6-7.** Paul says that we “have been rooted” in v. 6. This refers to a past action (have been) that has present affects. Another way of conveying the grammar is to say that we as believers are in “a settled state of rootedness.” In what are we rooted, and what is the relationship between this past act and Paul's current command to “walk in Him?”

(b) What does it mean to be “rooted in Christ?” Are you rooted in Christ? How do you know?

(c) How does reminding yourself of your beginnings in Christ help you to live a life that glorifies God? How would you teach this to a new believer?

(d) *Family:* Be ready with a live plant still in the soil (a plant that will have a visible root structure when you pull it out of the dirt; a weed will work fine) and a plastic plant stuck into a piece of Styrofoam. Ask questions of your family concerning which is stronger (be creative and start discussion; don't allow for just “yes” and “no” answers☺). After the discussion, pull the live plant out of the soil and show the root structure and describe what it provides for the plant. Use this as a jumping off point to describe the phrase “firmly rooted” in Christ in Col. 2:7.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Colossians 2:6-7; Eph. 4:12-15 & 1 Thess. 5:17.** In Col. 7 the next two participles (“rooted” was the 1st) are “being built up” and “being established.” They are both present, passive participles. What does Paul's use of the passive tell us about these aspects of walking in Christ? Why is it important?

(b) After reading the Ephesians and 1 Thessalonians passages, describe how this “building up” and “establishing” happens within the body of Christ?

(c) In what ways are you benefiting from these actions within BCC? In what ways are you participating in helping others in these actions? How will your commitments to be more active in the “one another's” from last week help facilitate this?

(d) *Family:* Remind everyone of the commitments they made last week to participate more fully in the “one another's of Scripture and discuss how these actions will help the body be “built up” and “established.”

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Consider this prayer summary of Col. 1:6-7 by David Garland: “Let them therefore see to it that their way of thought and life conforms continually to his teaching. Let them send their roots deep down into the truth as it is in Jesus, and their faith would not be quickly overturned” (David E. Garland, *The NIV Application Commentary on Colossians/Philemon*, p. 94). Pray this prayer for yourself and ask God to accomplish this in your life beginning today, remembering that it is Him who rooted you, Him who builds you up, and Him who establishes you!

DATE: August 8th, 2010

PASSAGE: Colossians 1:6-7

Walking in Christ