

A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Theme of the month: Extreme Discipleship: Living into Our Mission

Text for the Week: Colossians 1:1-8

Message for the Week: "Big God, Big Message"

Theme for the Week: Doing everything in Jesus' name.

Week 1

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

What are your letter-writing habits?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read Colossians 1:1-8 out loud.

What words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What have you learned during your "prison" time? (A long illness, a divorce, a death, a child who has turned away, financial struggle, etc.)

What does it mean for us to do everything in Jesus' name? (For example, to parent in Jesus' name? To spend money in Jesus' name? To mow the lawn in Jesus' name? etc.)

The Colossians heard about Jesus from Epaphras, whom Paul called "a faithful minister of Jesus Christ." What would define a faithful minister of Jesus Christ? From whom did you first hear about Jesus? Who has heard about Jesus from you?

For personal reflection: Have you truly submitted every facet of your life to the lordship of Jesus Christ? Are there areas which you have held back?

"Try It!"

Read through the book of Colossians once a week during this series. Consider using different translations. Memorize Colossians 3:17:

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

As Paul does, offer prayers of thanksgiving and praise for friends and family by name.

Father in heaven, thank you for opening our eyes - and our hearts – to the truth of the Gospel. Make Jesus Lord in our life. Teach us Truth. Deepen our faith. Increase our love. Assist us in "doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus." In the name of the exalted Christ, Amen.

Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Serving

During the month of August, identify what ministry area(s) you are going to use your spiritual gifts to serve at Covenant Church. There are a wide variety of different ministry opportunities for you to serve: Hospitality, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Adult Ministry, Child Care, Hand 2 Hand, Kids Hope, Furniture Ministry, Worship Team, and AV Team. Contact any of the ministry staff and let them know where and how you would like to serve at Covenant Church.

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