



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Colossians 1:1-14

Message for the Week: Our Everything

Sunday, May 7, 2023

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?

Who told you about the good news of the gospel?

Preparation:

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

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Colossians 1:1-14](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline 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:

Where today are people tempted to look for more spine-tingling experiences than ordinary Christian faith or worship might offer?

What kinds of practices are out there today that look attractive?

How do you go about attuning your heart and mind to the will of God?

Have you ever felt that you are missing something spiritually?

What steps are you taking to grow in your relationship with Christ? Where has the present culture watered down or influenced your theology?

Try It:

Loosen your grip on things that you are tempted to give importance to, even good things.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Heavenly Father, we pray that in Your goodness and grace we would put off the things of the fleshly self and walk, moment by moment, in spirit and truth to Your praise and glory - so that others may see and benefit from our 'love in the Spirit' - and glorify You. This we ask in Jesus' name, AMEN.

Source: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Colossians/1>

Missional/Spiritual Practice: Hospitality

During the months of April and May, you are invited and encouraged to engage in the missional practice of [Hospitality](#). Hospitality is about creating welcoming space for others. The practice of hospitality originated in the ancient world and was expected as travelers would seek shelter and food after traveling great distances. This practice is about living a life of hospitality. Henri Nouwen writes, "Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines."

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