

Christ is Supreme

TEACHING NOTES

KEY VERSES

Colossians 1:3-23

KEY THEMES

Jesus Christ is God
The supremacy of Christ



The power and evidence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:3-8)



Knowing and doing the will of God (Colossians 1:9-10)

Living a life pleasing to God



How is this accomplished? Knowing Him (Colossians 1:11-14)

... as the one who rescued us

... as the one who purchased our freedom

... as the one who forgave our sins

**Knowing Christ, the risen Lord (Colossians 1:15-17)**

Not Jesus the man, but rather the great I AM

No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. – Romans 8:37

**Knowing Him (Colossians 1:18-20)**

... as the head of the Church

... as Lord, ruler, king, owner

... as the one who reconciled us back to God

... as the one who made peace by shedding His blood on the cross

**Blameless (Colossians 1:21-22)**

This is God's justice, not His love or even grace

**Our faith is to grow, we are to continue to believe the truth and stand firmly in it (Colossians 1:23)****Lesson Objective:**

To grow in our faith as we come to know Christ more

PERSONAL STUDY**Session 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Take a moment to quiet your heart and mind before God. Ask Him to push the distractions of the day to the side and help you focus on Him during this time. Thank God for the opportunity to spend time alone with Him and ask Him to speak to you during this time of reflection.

Knowing God

What are a few things you know to be true about God? (Think back through the themes we've covered in Equipping The Church.)

Are these truths about God evident in your life? If so, how? If not, why do you think that is?

It's easy to know things about God. In fact, we often collect quite a bit of knowledge about Him. But that is not enough to satisfy our need for a relationship with God. We have to make a shift.

What's the difference in knowing about God and knowing God? (Think about this for people in general and then for you specifically.)

How does an individual move from knowing about God to knowing Him? (Again, think about this for people in general and then for you specifically.)

**Read Colossians 1:9-10**

What does this passage teach you about knowing God?

Through this passage you see that knowing the will of God (and simply knowing God) comes through prayer and is a process. Growing and learning anything takes time and the same is true in a pursuit of knowing God. In addition to prayer, you come to know God more when you spend time in His Word. He reveals Himself to you through it. He wants you to interact with His Truth as you grow in your understanding of His character and His ways. In addition to time spent in prayer and reading the Bible, you come to know God more as you allow Him to be a part of and work in your life. Just like a relationship with another person takes time to develop, your relationship with God will continue to deepen as you spend more time with Him. Relationships are a process. Knowing God is a process. It will take time and energy. But it will be worth it.



Read Colossians 1:15-22

What are a few things this passage teaches you about Christ?

How do you see the truth about Him in this passage at work in your life?

God wants you to know Him. He wants you to know Him as the one who rescued you, the one who purchased your freedom, and the one who forgave your sins. He wants you to know Christ, the risen Lord. He wants you to know Him as supreme, the head of the Church, the one who reconciled you back to God, and the one who made peace by shedding His blood on the cross. He wants you to know Christ as the one who declares you blameless without a single fault.

He has invited you to join Him in a continuing journey of knowing Him better through prayer, reading the Bible, and spending time with Him. Now is the time to take another step in allowing God to further your relationship with Him.

Prayer time

Using Colossians 1:9-10 as a model, take time now to pray about knowing God better:

“God, please give me complete knowledge of your will and give me spiritual wisdom and understanding. May the way I live always honor and please you, Lord, and may my life produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, may I grow as I learn to know you better and better.”

Key verse

Put to memory Colossians 1:15. Place the provided scripture card somewhere you can see it throughout the day.

Session 2

Prepare your heart and mind

In Mark 6:31, Jesus asked His apostles to come with Him to a quiet place to get some rest because they had been busy teaching and healing many people. Take a few moments to ask Jesus to remove your cares so you can find rest as you take on His yoke and learn from Him.



Read Colossians 1:18-20, emphasis on verse 19

What do you think is meant by the fullness of God? (If you're not sure, take the time to look up the word fullness to shed light on the complete meaning.)

Jesus' time on the earth fulfilled God's purpose of showing us how accessible God wants to be to us. However, now as the resurrected Lord, we need to see, not only, His accessibility but also His complete authority in all things.



Read Colossians 1:16

What this verse shows is that Christ is superior to every ruler and authority. And it all exists for Him.

What does this mean for our lives?



Read Isaiah 7:14

We know this passage to be referring to Jesus. What does this prophecy from Isaiah tell us about Him?

Allow yourself a few moments to think about the fact that the very feet of God walked the earth. He may not have walked the dirt that we tread, but halfway around the planet people walk the same ground that Jesus did – in essence, they walk in the footsteps of God.



Jesus Christ is God

Jesus claims to be God on multiple occasions. In John 10, He says, "The Father and I are One." In John 8, He states, "Before Abraham was even born, I AM!" Notice the exclamation point for emphasis.

What do you understand these statements by Jesus to mean?

How then should we respond? Let's take a look at how a couple of devoted believers responded.



Read Revelation 1:17

Prior to this verse, John sees an image of the Son of Man, the one who John referred to earlier as the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come.

What posture does John take at the sight of Christ?

John's external response is a reflection of his internal belief. Paul, another apostle of Jesus, expresses what he believes when he says:

"Yes, everything is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." (Philippians 2:8)

How does someone like Paul move from disregard for Christ to a response like this one?

Take time to examine yourself. Does your response in the presence of Christ, our risen Lord, replicate that of John and Paul?

What are you currently doing to grow your understanding of the resurrected Lord so your response is more in line with that of Paul and John?

Key verse

Continue memorizing Colossians 1:15.

Prayer time

Jesus, you are the Word who was with God and was God in the beginning. I confess that there are times when my posture does not reflect that truth. Transform my perspective of you until it conforms to the truth that you are God, and until I see everything else as worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing you.

ADDITIONAL STUDY

One of the most difficult concepts to understand in Christianity is the idea that God's Son became a man. While becoming man, Jesus was still fully God, but was obedient to the Father and a servant to all men. If that were not enough, Jesus rose from the dead after His crucifixion and returned to His glory, becoming the risen Christ (Revelation 1). Why, then, do we, more often than not, portray Jesus Christ as the little babe in a manger and the suffering son of Mary when, in fact, He is now so much more as the Head of the Church and the victorious King of Kings?

**Read Colossians 1:15-20 & Revelation 1:1-18**

Who was Christ before the world existed and what was His role in creation?

What is Jesus Christ's relationship with the Church and those who rise from the dead?

In Revelation 1:8 how does Jesus refer to Himself?

Almighty means the all-powerful and absolutely, universally sovereign. It is used 55 times in the Old Testament to refer to God.

In Revelation 1:12-16 how does the new description of Jesus compare to the lowly birth of baby Jesus in the manger?

The transformation of Jesus from creator to servant and back to Lord over all is truly beyond our comprehension. It is important for us as believers to understand that our sacrificial lamb is no longer taking on His subservient role. Because of His victory over death at His resurrection, He is now seated at the right hand of God.

PARENT GUIDE

This week we spent time talking about Jesus and the importance of knowing Him. Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. What we know and believe about Him is important. Take some time this week to talk with your kids and explore what they know about Jesus. Here are a few Table Talk questions to help get the conversation started.

Table Talk

When I say the name Jesus, what comes to mind?

(Have paper and pencil available and allow your children to make a list if they are able. Give them ownership of this process.)

In what ways is Jesus different than any other person who has ever lived?

(You can also tie this question into the first by asking them to explain their answers as you go along.)

Read Colossians 1:15-17 together.

What can we add to our list of things we already know about Jesus?

(Add to the list anything new that your children discovered in this passage. You can also acknowledge things from this passage that they already knew by praising them verbally and placing a checkmark beside them on the list.)

Here are a few things you will want to make sure you draw out of the passage:

Jesus existed before the creation (Verses 15 & 17)

Jesus is God (Verse 15 – “Visible image of the invisible God.”)

Jesus is the Creator (Verse 16 – “Through Him God created everything... He made things we can see and cannot see... Everything was created through Him and for Him.”)

Jesus is the Christ (Verse 15 – “... Christ is...”)

(The title Christ is a reference to Jesus as the risen Savior. Prior to His death He is primarily referred to as simply “Jesus” or “Jesus of Nazareth.” After His resurrection the title “Jesus Christ” is used in abundance.)

Why do you think it is important for us to know these things about Jesus?

(It helps us to have a more complete understanding of who He is and why these titles are used.)

Take a moment and share with your children how you have been learning about the identity of Jesus during *Equipping the Church*, and through your personal studies.

Be sure to pray with your children and ask God to help them understand who Jesus is and why that is so important.