

# WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE

## WEEK 1- A PASTOR'S PRAYER

**COLOSSIANS JOURNAL:** Remind everyone to get a journal at church and bring it to group.

**ICEBREAKER:** Let's play a game called High-Low. Looking back on your summer, what was the HIGH (best, favorite) and LOW (worst, hardest) part of your summer?

**CONTEXT:** Pastor James kicks off our journey through the New Testament book of Colossians. In this session, we explore Paul's letter to the Colossians, focusing on the supremacy of Jesus and the importance of understanding who He is. Colossians aim is to deepen our understanding and desire to surrender to the reality of Christ's impact on every aspect of our lives.

### BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

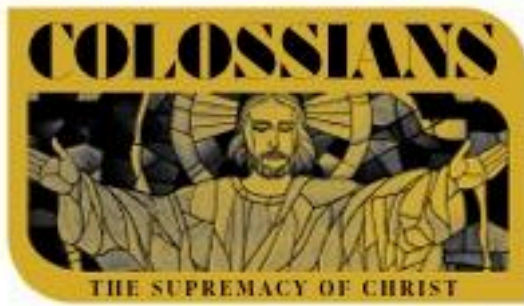
**OVERVIEW:** Watch this 9 minute video from the Bible Project as a group or for individual study. (It is a little long so you may need to divide it into sections.)

📺 **Book of Colossians Summary: A Complete Animated Overview**

**INTRODUCTION:** Read through the introduction on page 8 of your Colossians Journal.

### SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters] in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. 3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, 7 just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf 8 and has made known to us your love in the Spirit. 9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thank to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon over the weekend and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

What does this passage teach us about God and His character?

Colossians 1:9-14 is a prayer from Paul for the Church of Colossae. Share which of the 4 things Paul prayed for that you need in your life right now? The people around us that do not know Jesus?

**Knowledge** of God's Will

**Obedience** to walk in a manner that pleases God

**Power** to endure difficulties and be filled with joy in all situations

**Gratitude** for God's grace and redemption that we do not deserve.

Why is it important to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, and how can we strive to do this? How can we help each other?

In what ways are we seeing the fruit of the Gospel within our community or church today?

Discuss the significance of being strengthened by God's might for endurance and patience in difficult circumstances? How does this impact the people around us, both believers and those who do not follow Jesus yet?

## PRAYER

Share praises, answered prayers and prayer requests. Take the time to praise God for who He is, to express gratitude to God for answered prayers and lift up the requests shared to the God who is able to heal, comfort and guide us.

This community prayer from our Colossians Journal (pg. 12) is to be prayed over your group or in unison as a group.

*Our prayer is that we would be people filled with the knowledge of God, strengthened by the power of God, and marked by the joy of God that we might live lives worthy and pleasing to Him. Amen!*