

## **INTRODUCTION**

Paul wrote Colossians from prison to the church in Colossae, a small city about 100 miles east of Ephesus (in modern-day Turkey). The church was under attack from false teachers, including those who were teaching that Jesus was not actually God. Paul counters with this letter emphasizing the supremacy of Jesus Christ, and the completeness of His salvation. In chapter 1, Paul writes, *“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy.”* Is Christ first in your life?

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Share with your group what the #1 priority in your life is.
2. Read Colossians 3:1. What does it mean that ‘you have been raised with Christ’?
3. The verb ‘raised’ is both passive (something done for you or to you, not by you) and in the past tense. How does that impact your understanding of this verse?
4. What does it mean to ‘set your hearts on things above’? Does this mean it is wrong to think about things on earth? (See 1 Timothy 5:8; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Ephesians 4:28.)
5. What earthly things did you place too much priority on this past week? How did that affect your relationships with others and with God?
6. Read Matthew 6:33 and Mark 12:28-30. What do these passages say about putting ‘first things first’?

7. What are some ways that you can begin to put ‘first things first’? List them below, and discuss them with your group to get other ideas.
- Read the Bible regularly
  - Prayer
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
8. If you consistently set your heart on Christ and ‘things above’, how would your life be different?
9. According to Colossians 3:1, what is the position of Christ? What is your position in Ephesians 2:6? What is the significance of this?

**SCRIPTURE**

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

Colossians 3:1-17

**APPLICATION**

What must you do, or change, to make Jesus central to your life? Are there items in question 7 that would help you grow in your faith? If so, list them below, and share them with your group.