

Colossians

Take Root...Bear Fruit

Week Two

Welcome back!

Well, we finished the first week of this journey together! Hopefully, whether you are a seasoned Bible Scholar or this is all new to you, you agree that the “together” part is important. We get more from our Bible Study by sharing it with friends. I pray that you will stick with us as we continue practicing the skills we’re learning—and sharing what God shows us along the way. If the first week was a challenge for you, keep after it! Anyone with a little more experience will tell you it gets easier with practice.

*Last week, we focused on seeing the details of a passage by reading it, marking it up, and listing one or two things we noticed about each verse. This week, we’ll be adding a step that we call **“Lump and Label.”** When we “Lump and Label” a passage we pull back from the details a little bit to see how they fit together. We look for sections of our passage that communicate one idea. Then we write a short summary of that idea. Here’s an example: In last week’s focus passage, Colossians 1:1-14, we might see two “Lumps”—verses 1-8 and verses 9-14. We could label the first lump, “Paul celebrates the faith of the Colossian brothers.” The second one might be, “Paul prays for the Colossian brothers to grow in their faith.” And now a hint: Paragraphs often make good “lumps.” ☺*

If you do your Bible Study all in one sitting, like many of us, I know you’ll want to have other times with God during the week. “Join the Journey” is a great tool that we’ve been using, as a church, to help us all develop the habit of Daily Time with God. We’ve provided some “Daily Time with God Journaling Sheets” in the back tab of this notebook to help you keep a record of those times if you wish.

Don’t forget to wrap up your Bible Study time by “putting skin on” what you’ve seen. Identify at least one way to put in to practice what you saw in this week’s focus passage.

Praising God for the fruit we will see,

Cindy and Friends

Week Two Homework

Observe (What Do I SEE?)

Pray...Read...Mark up the passage...List 1-2 observations per verse.

Colossians 1:15-23 (NIV)

Observations

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And 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. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of ¹⁰ your evil behavior.

²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

“Lump and Label” ...Go back over the passage and look for 2-4 “lumps” of content that together express one idea. Give each “lump” a “label.” Try to make your labels as brief as possible.

<i>Lump (verses)</i>	<i>Label</i>

Apply (How Does it WORK?)

Make it practical. Now that you have spent some time looking in detail at God's Word, don't stop! Ask yourself, "How does this work...in general...and for ME?" You may find it helpful to look for...

S—a SIN to avoid

P—a PROMISE to claim

E—an EXAMPLE to follow

C—a COMMAND to obey

K—KNOWLEDGE of God to believe

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