

COLOSSIANS 1:1-2

THE CHASE: OUR DESIRE FOR ENOUGH & JESUS' PURSUIT OF US

SCRIPTURE & SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE — FEBRUARY 2

OPEN

1. What does a full and abundant life look like to you? When have you experienced the kind of life you're describing?

This weekend Pastor Curtis introduced us to the Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossians, which we'll be studying together over the next several months. Our sermon series is titled *The Chase: Our Desire for Enough and Jesus' Pursuit of Us*. We'll be exploring how we experience abundant life in close connection to Jesus and the ways we're tempted to chase after a fullness and flourishing apart from him.

We're going to focus on a few verses each week, but the letters of the New Testament—just like letters from our family or friends—would have been read (outloud) in their entirety. We want to invite you to read through all of COLOSSIANS—or at least chapters 1-2, which we'll cover before Easter.

DISCUSS

2. Take a moment to reflect together on the experience of listening hearing Scripture read out loud.
 - a. Did you notice anything happening within you as you were listening?
 - b. Did anything you read and heard stand out to you? What piqued your interest? What confused you? Did anything frustrate you?
 - c. And lastly, how would you characterize the tone of Paul's letter?
3. Briefly summarize what you've heard about the Apostle Paul's connection this church. What did you pick on about the city of Colossae from Pastor Curtis? Read the brief account of Paul's ministry in Ephesus in ACTS 19:8-10.

Paul describes these believers as *in Christ*. We find this simple but significant phrase over 150 times in Paul's letters. Sometimes it's just another way of saying "Christian," but far more often Paul is referring to a deeper union with Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Some of what Paul means by this phrase is pictured in Jesus' vine and branches imagery (*c.f.* John 15:1-11).

4. We often think about our relationship with Jesus in the language of "faith" or "belief" (and rightly so), but have you ever considered yourself as "united" to Jesus or "participating" in his life?
5. Paul also describes these believers as *in Christ at Colossae*. What do you think it means to have a vital, interactive relationship with Jesus over the course of your day in the various locations God has you? How do you sense Jesus trying to reframe the way you see *St. Louis* and reshape the way you engage our city?

PRAY

As we embark on this study of Colossians, pray for the Holy Spirit to illuminate our hearts and minds to what God is teaching us through the Scriptures. Ask for humility to not just read Scripture, but have false beliefs and behaviors exposed in us. Pray that we would see Jesus with fresh eyes—(re)awakened and transformed by his loving presence.