

## **Group Discussion Guide for Week of 10/22/2023**

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text to accompany the themes of the Sunday Sermon; *Colossians 3:12-17 (NIV)*

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **General Question Bank**

**Observation** (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

**Know** (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)

**Together** (What is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?)

### **Discussion/Topic Starter** (Ice Breaker)

Do you have an article of clothing that changes you mood when you put it on?

### **Colossians 3:12-17**

O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

*\*\*\*Another way to ask: "Choose one verse or phrase from the passage that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further." Now share it with the group*

O: Consider the behavior Paul sets forth in verses 12-17. Cynics might say that this is the behavior of wimpy people who can't stand up for themselves. How would you respond to that charge about the difficulty of doing the things mentioned here like forgiving, being patient, being humble?

I: Being tenderhearted doesn't mean being sentimental. Being kind doesn't mean being a pushover. Humility isn't the same thing as low self-esteem. Meekness is not weakness. How might you instead define each character trait?

I: Paul balances the negatives of the old life of sin with the positives of the new life in Christ. What is lacking when a Christian community denounces those things which should be "put off" without the corresponding emphasis on those things which should be "put on"?

A: Verse 16 portrays believers as teaching one another, exhorting (insistently encouraging) one another and singing to God with grateful hearts. How do we practice each of the three?

A: Acting in someone's name means both representing that person and acting with their authority. So doing everything in Christ's name is no small claim. Stop to consider what Jesus might actually think, let alone do, about what we do in his name.

A: Ask the Holy Spirit to remove anything in your life which needs to be removed, and to increasingly clothe you with Christlikeness.

-How will you respond this week? What one question do you want us to ask of you next week in regard to this?

### **Recommended Follow-up:**

**Pray:** Pray together, and really focus in on that we are meeting with God, He's in the room, and He wants us to KNOW Him. Pray together, spend some time being silent.

**Respond:** Spend this week responding to God's word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week's devotional guide.

## An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides\*:

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a **“Know, Be, Do”** person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides. We believe the process for this transformation happens in community, hence the **“Together”** part of the Riverside mission as well.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”
- **“Together**, what is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?”

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on [Colossians 1:9-10](#), see below)

**Know** – *“to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God.”* Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

**Be** – *“so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way.”* Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

**Do** – *“bearing fruit in every good work, ...”* Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice *“bearing fruit in every good work”* then yields more *“growing in the knowledge of God.”* In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)*  
To aid in this process Riverside also has a **daily devotional guide available each week**.

### Colossians 1:9-10, NIV

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...*

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\* As discussed in Riverside’s HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guide was created in consultation with Beetham, Christopher A. *Colossians and Philemon: A 12-Week Study (Knowing the Bible)*. Crossway. Kindle Edition; Meynell, Mark. *Colossians & Philemon For You: Rooting you in Christian confidence (God’s Word For You)*. The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition; Wright, N. T.. *Colossians & Philemon: 8 Studies for Individuals and Groups (N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides)*. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.