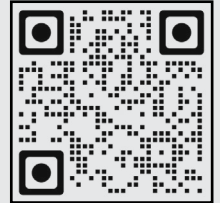


HOME GROUP STUDY

WEEK ONE

PLAY VIDEO

Play the Week 1 teaching and testimony video from fortheone.co/homegroups or by using the QR code. Share reflections from the video afterward. Pray for this testimony before you begin the rest of the lesson.



READ

Colossians 1:15-20

UNDERSTAND

This letter to the Colossians was written to warn believers against a big heresy of this day – the heresy that conflicted the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Heretics told believers they needed something more than their relationship with Jesus to bring them to a genuine spiritual experience.

The false teachers in Colossae, like the false teachers of our own day, would not deny the importance of Jesus Christ. They would give Him prominence but not preeminence. In their view, Jesus was one of many beings that came from God and through which men could reach God. It was this claim Paul spoke against in this passage.

You must remember, however, the Colossians received this letter from a man – Paul – whom they had never met. This man was in prison, and he was contradicting almost everything they were being taught from other teachers. They knew Paul had been involved in leading Epaphras (their pastor) to faith in Christ. However, the false teachers in Colossae had been causing doubts in the people's minds and discrediting Paul.

Anticipating this situation, Paul spends some time in this passage writing about himself and explaining his ministry – sharing the Gospel, suffering for these Colossians and interceding for the believers.

DISCUSS

1. Have you ever made a decision and said to your friend or to your spouse, "If I/we make this decision, some things are going to have to change...?" What was that decision, and why was it a driver of other things?
2. In light of the heresies of that day, it was important to Paul that the church know the truth about who Christ is. How did Paul describe Christ in this passage?
3. Why is it so significant that Christ is preeminent before all things?
4. What are the implications of Christ being preeminent as it relates to our generosity?
5. What about this passage changes the way you see your resources and stewardship?
6. As you think about the For The One initiative and a generosity challenge God might have for you in this season, is there something you are putting "before all things" instead of Christ?

REFLECT

What are your thoughts and feelings as we head into this new generosity campaign? Spend time as a group in prayer for the things you just shared.