

## **Colossians Overview**

### **Participant Guide**

#### **Breaking the Ice**

1. What is one thing you're looking forward to as we study through the book of Colossians? What is one thing that you're feeling hesitant about while we're studying Colossians?
2. Colossians is one of 7 letters from Paul that are in the New Testament. This letter would have been formative for the early Christians in Colossae. Have you ever gotten a letter (or email, phone call, etc.) that proved to be formative in your life?

#### **Getting The Facts Straight**

You may need to use tools such as your study bible, the internet, commentaries, or other resources to find the answers to the next few questions.

1. Who wrote the book of Colossians?
2. Where was Colossae located? What are some important aspects of Colossae's culture and demographics that give context to Paul's letter to Colossae? Discuss.
3. When was Colossians written? What are some important things that were happening in Colossae during this time?
4. What were some of the main reasons for Paul writing the letter to the Christians in Colossae?

#### **Bringing It Home**

1. Paul wrote Colossians from a prison cell - making it likely that Paul was experiencing suffering in his own life at the time of his writing - yet his letter reflects great care and concern for other Christians. When you are faced with seasons of suffering in your own life, what are your responses? Are you prompted toward care and concern for others? Why or why not?
2. Paul addresses some of the distractions from the truth that were perpetuated by culture that the Colossians were falling for. What are some distractions that you think Christians today are dealing with? Are there any distractions that you have personally wrestled with?

3. Paul is intentional in his letter to the Colossians to state that Jesus is different and above all others. What attributes of Christ led you to find your own conviction of Jesus' supremacy over all others?