

Colossians 3:18-4:1 | Family Matters

Participant Guide

Breaking the Ice

1. What is a unique tradition that your family has?
2. What was the neighborhood you grew up in like? What are some memories that you have?

Read + Observe

SOAP Method

Scripture: Read the scripture passage together. Take time to slow down and pay attention to what the Bible is saying. Consider reading the passage through more than once and through different lenses (for example: imagining that you are part of the original audience which the scripture was first written to – in our case, a member of the church at Colossae)

Observation: Who is speaking and who was the original people listening/reading? What are some key words and phrases that are repeated or emphasized? What are the main themes of the scripture? If you had to title the passage yourself, how would you title it? What is the context of this passage in light of the rest of the chapter? The rest of the book? The rest of the section of books (for example: gospels, epistles, history books, etc.)? The rest of the testament (Old Testament or New Testament)? The rest of the Bible?

Application: This is where it gets personal! How does this apply to your life right now? What is something actionable that you can respond to? What is God speaking to you, through the scripture and what is He calling you to know and/or do in light of the scripture?

Prayer: Spend time praying in light of what you learned and the way that you are being called to respond to the scripture. Remember that prayer is 2-way, so spend time listening and receiving as well as speaking. Prayer places you in a place of reliance on God.

Read through the scripture together to begin. (Colossians 3:18-4:1)

1. Which words were emphasized, repeated, or connected in this passage? What are 2-3 themes or key ideas that emerge? If you had to title this passage, what would you title it and why?
2. In verses 18-21, there are some specific instructions for different members in a family. Make a list of the different instructions that Paul gives to each member of the family. How would these instructions play out in your family dynamic? For example, what would fathers not aggravating their children look like in your family?
3. How many times does Paul mention "the Lord" in Colossians 3:18-25? Why do you think he would emphasize Christ's lordship so much in a section about roles and relationships?
4. Read Colossians 3:22-25. How does Paul describe the relationship between the way we treat those in our household and the way that we view God? Discuss.

Apply: Bringing It Home

1. Do any of the instructions Paul gave to members of the household make you feel affirmed? Alarmed? Defensive? Why?
2. How are you recognizing Christ's Lordship in your life? How is that recognition reflected in the way you conduct yourself with other people in your family?
3. Read Colossians 3:13; 4:1, Ephesians 5:25-28, and Matthew 18:23-35. How does our relationship with Christ and acknowledging how He has treated us help us to have the right heart in our roles and relationships?
4. Is there a specific role or relationship where you're struggling to follow Christ?

Prayer

1. Spend time praying about relationships and roles that those in your group are working to honor God in and through.