

For tips on leading and a reminder on how to use this guide, see the bottom of this document



Leader Guide
Week One: Jump In And Pray With Us

Opening Prayer

Jesus, we thank you for being here with us. I pray that you would help us grow in faith and friendship as we share our lives and learn together. Amen.

Icebreaker

As you might have heard, we're at the halfway point of a 2-year spiritual journey our church has been on called Cannonball. So, just for fun, let's imagine that we're at a stadium watching a big game and it's halftime. Since it's halftime, you're going to want to eat and drink.

- **Q1:** Share your name and what you would buy at the snack bar to bring back to your seat (i.e. ice cream, nachos, hotdog, peanuts, etc.).

In honor of this halftime moment, we're kicking off a new series called "Ripple Effect". The definition of Ripple Effect is, "the continuing and spreading results of an event or action."

- **Q2:** What is one of the biggest "ripple creating" events that you've experienced and how did it affect you? To get the conversation going, here are some examples: graduating from college, birth of a child, wedding day, illness, housing market crash, 9/11, etc.

Play Week One Video

Talk it Over

We were reminded today that Paul wrote the letter we call "Colossians" from an ancient prison. One day he's following Jesus and sharing the gospel, and the next he's being sent to prison. But we also know that God used him despite unexpected and difficult circumstances. He didn't choose the rock that was thrown in the lake of his life, but God used it to make Kingdom of God ripples anyway.

- **Q3:** Can you share a time when your life was changed by unexpected events that you wouldn't have chosen or didn't see coming. How did God use it anyway?

Read Colossians 1:3–5 (NLT)

Leader Instructions: Invite others in the group to read the Bible verses during your weekly study using their participant's guide or Bible.

(Content continued on the next page.)

Paul is praying and thanking God for these people and the impact their faith is having. We are praying this series and group experience does the same for all of us.

- **Q4:** What is an area in your life/faith where you would like to grow or change? If you're comfortable, share this so we can encourage each other and celebrate our growth together at the end of this group experience.
- **Q5:** Let's do a little celebrating now. In what area of your life/faith do you feel like you are winning? For example, is there an area where you are doing something you feel God is asking you to do or making a change you believe is necessary to grow in your faith, etc.

The reason that Paul says "for we have heard of your faith" is because he's never actually met these Christ followers! He's only been influenced by the stories others are telling about them. That's pretty amazing and demonstrates a ripple effect for sure!

- **Q6:** Think of someone you've never actually met, or maybe don't know very well who has influenced your spiritual journey. What was it about their story that has shaped you? (Think about pastors, missionaries, authors, speakers you've listened to, filmmakers, musicians, historical figures, etc.)

Read Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

Leader Instructions: Invite others in the group to read the Bible verses during your weekly study using their participant's guide or Bible.

- **Q7:** When you read or hear this verse, what thought or idea brings you the most encouragement?
- **Q8:** How can this group pray for you in the coming week?

Closing Prayer

Leader Instructions: Feel free to lead this week's closing prayer using the prompt below or praying your own prayer for the group. You can also ask your group if someone would like to share a quick, simple closing prayer.

God, thank you for our time together and providing us a safe space to get to know you and one another. Remind us throughout the week of the many ways you have already helped us grow in our faith. Please help us to be aware of your Holy Spirit's encouragement to continue the journey. We know and believe that you hear our prayers and are already at work behind the scenes. Amen.

Closing Reminders For Our Group

- Let's each commit to attending all five week's of Ripple Effect. Consider inviting a friend to join us.
- Let's commit to reading through Colossians every week. (Because it's only four chapters long, reading a chapter every other day would take you through the whole book each week.)
- Let's try to memorize our theme verse for this series (Colossians 1:6).
- As a group, let's make sure we have all our group logistics squared away for next week (i.e. schedule, meeting location, child care details, snack rotation, etc.)

Growth Group Leaders Tips and Reminders

This guide is meant to serve as a tool to help you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith through our Ripple Effect series. We encourage you to spend some time praying about your group, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance regarding your specific group.

Ripple Effect Group Video

Be sure and watch this week's video prior to your group. This will help you know where your group discussion is going, remove surprises, and give you a chance to connect the content with your own story before you help others connect it with theirs.

Discussion Guide / Leader Guide

Please review the guide each week before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate with your group. The guide is not meant to be a rigid script or something you power through. So, please familiarize yourself with it and make minor adjustments to it as appropriate for your group. It will also be helpful if you have it already downloaded on a digital device and/or printed for yourself and anyone who is helping you lead your discussion before your group arrives.

Participant Guide

You may print the one-page participant guide for your group or direct the participants to download the participant guide for their own use.

Accessing Ripple Effect Videos, Leader Guides, and Participant Guides

All the pertinent group content you need can be accessed the following ways by you or the members of your group:

- Visit jumpinmakewaves.com
 - Scroll over 'Groups' and then 'Groups Content'.
- Visit eastlakechurch.com/discussion-guides
- RightNowMedia
 - You will need to login through a web browser to access the Ripple Effect content. Look under the "Chula Vista Adult" header for access. (This content cannot be found on the RightNow Media app.)
- The EastLake Church Network App
 - Click 'Growth Groups'.

Reminders

We encourage you to make reminder calls or send reminder texts to group members a couple days before you meet every week. Reminders are a simple way to encourage participation in your group.

Food/Snacks/Water/Coffee

We encourage you to invite group members to volunteer to bring food and beverages to your weekly meetings. This way the responsibility is shared among the participants.

Weekly Closing Reminder for Your Group

Each week you will want to cover the reminders listed in the leader guide as you close up your group.



Participant Guide
Week One: Jump In And Pray With Us

Colossians 1:3–5 NLT

“We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God’s people, which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.”

Group prayer requests:

Spiritual influencers in my life:

Colossians 1:6 NLT

“This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.”

Write down a personal prayer inviting Jesus into an area of your life/faith where you want your growth to create a Ripple Effect all around you.