



Opening Prayer

Jesus, we thank you for this group. Thanks for a safe place to build friendship and stretch our faith. We invite you to move freely and speak to us today. Use this time we have together to mold and shape us into the people you have created us to be. Amen.

Icebreaker

Let's have some fun with "Would you rather?" (Rules: You must pick one answer and we need to know why you chose the one you did.)

- » Would you rather win a rock skipping competition or hold the world record for the longest distance actually skipped by one person?
- » Would you rather surf a wave or surf the internet?
- » Would you rather do a cannonball into a pool of ice water or jump off a 15-foot high dive?

Today we're going to be talking about putting God first in our lives. To get the conversation started, let's talk about some things that are more important to us than others.

- » What is more important to you: your cell phone or your car?
- » What is more important to you: where you live or where you work?
- » What is more important to you: Christmas or Easter?

PLAY WEEK 2 VIDEO

Talk it Over

As Mike reminded us, Jesus is the most important figure in the universe and consequently, our lives. He also said that this can be a nice theological reality, but it's harder to practically live it out. Truth is, for most people in our world, staying connected with Jesus is not their top priority.

Q1: What do you think are the top 2 or 3 priorities of most people in our culture today?

Q2: Of the areas you identified, are there any that are important to you or used to be important to you? What do you think would change if we put Jesus first in those areas we just mentioned?

Q3: Think of a Jesus follower in a place of leadership outside of church ministry (i.g. entertainment/sports industry, corporate environment, political arena etc.) who exhibits a life that values what Christ values in their arena. What do you see or admire in them that you would like to grow in yourself?

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.



LEADER GUIDE

WEEK TWO

THE ULTIMATE RIPPLE EFFECT INVITING JESUS TO RIPPLE THROUGH ALL THINGS



Q4: When did you “first hear” about Jesus in a way that started transforming you?

Q5: Where in your life/fait h do you currently see God “bearing fruit” and creating some small Kingdom of God ripples in your spheres of influence (e.g. home, school, work, social circles, etc.)?

Read Colossians 1:15-17 (NLT)

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

Q6: What was visible in the life of Jesus that points to God’s goodness and trustworthiness? Can you think of a story, either from the Bible or something you heard in a service, that exhibits or exemplifies that most to you?

Q7: Go over Colossians 1:15-17 as a group one more time. What truths about Jesus are detailed there? As you observe your life today, what are the practical implications of those truths? Or in other words, what difference can these truths make as we work, parent, pay bills, do life among our neighbors, navigate health problems, etc.?

Read Colossians 1:22-23 (NLT) and John 16:33 (NLT)

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

Q8: Do you struggle with the truth that God sees you already holy and blameless through your faith in Jesus? When you contemplate this truth, does it make it easier or harder to keep Jesus first in your life?

Q9: Is there a current trial/difficulty you are facing right now where you need Jesus’ peace? How can we pray for you?

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, we bring you our good days and our not so good days. We acknowledge and affirm that we are putting you first. Jesus, doing life with you is our top priority and we want to honor you. We want to show that you, and our relationship with you, is what we value more than anything else in our lives. Amen.

Closing Reminders For Our Group

- » Let’s each commit to attending all five week’s of Ripple Effect. Can you think of a friend you’d like to invite 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.)



PARTICIPANT GUIDE

WEEK TWO

THE ULTIMATE RIPPLE EFFECT INVITING JESUS TO RIPPLE THROUGH ALL THINGS



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.

The piece of this verse that is "good news" for me today is:

Colossians 1:15-17 (NLT)

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

The character traits of Jesus that most encourage me are:

Colossians 1:22-23 (NLT)

Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.

John 16:33 (NLT)

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

Some truths about God that I can count on, especially on the hard days:



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.