Leader's Guide

Session 4: Colossians 2:6–15	
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SESSION GOALS	
	
Every session has a point—what each participant should walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and	
doing.	
Main Idea: Since Jesus brought us from death to life and	
triumphed over every authority, we can now live rooted in Christ, unswayed by a false gospel, and abundant in faith.	
Head Change: To know that we've been brought from	
death to life by the power of Jesus and we can now live in a way that reflects His authority.	
Heart Change: To feel confident in the truth of the gospel	
so that we can stand firm in Christ without being	
persuaded by a false gospel.	
Life Change: To live a life that reflects the new life we've been given in Christ with a strong foundation in Him so	
that we can stand firm in our faith.	
OPEN	
Describe one of your favorite commercials. What makes that commercial compelling?	
Would you say you're persuaded by every	
advertisement you see? What would be different about	
your life if you were convinced by all of them?	
It's sometimes easy to be persuaded to do something or to change something about our lives. Advertisers bank on	
that happening. In this portion of Colossians, Paul cautions	
the Colossian church to not be led astray by false teaching. Instead, they should find their foundation in	
Jesus and His gospel.	
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REA	<u> </u>	
Rea	nd Colossians 2:6–15.	
WA	тсн	
lool	ore viewing the session, here is an important thing to k for in Louie's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to following question.	
	at are the four words Louie uses to outline this tion of Colossians?	
	w Session 4: Colossians 2:6–15 (14 minutes)	

DISCUSS

Louie walked through the text using four phrases: follow up, foundation, fullness, and finished work. Each coordinates with certain verses. Follow up is first with verses 6 and 7.	
Read Colossians 2:6–7	
If we have received Christ by grace through faith, what does that say about what it means to live in Him? (It means we should continue to follow Him by grace through faith.)	
Paul urges the Colossians to "live your lives" in Jesus. He uses that phrase often in his books to mean that Christians should continue to walk in their faith. Louie described it as "follow up." We continue to keep in step with Jesus after choosing to follow Him, all by His grace through faith. What does it look like to live your life in—or to follow—Jesus? What is different about your actions, thoughts, or attitudes?	
Louie talked about how consistent growth as a Christian is more about what is unseen than what is seen. Verse 7 talks about being rooted and built up in Him. The hidden things we do are what mature us as His followers. What sorts of hidden, beneath-the-surface things have helped you grow in your faith? (Some answers might include: personal Bible study, prayer, giving in secret, singing worship songs during commutes, fasting, etc.)	
In verse 7, Paul tells the Colossians to be strengthened in their faith. He mentions giving thanks as a characteristic of strong faith. What sorts of spiritual disciplines strengthen your faith? In what ways has thanksgiving bolstered your walk with Jesus?	
Being thankful to God reminds us of what He's done for us and who He is. Reflecting on these things, especially in community, can encourage each of us in our faith. What's one thing you're thankful for this week?	
Louie's next word ties into this idea of developing deep roots in Jesus and His gospel—it's the word "foundation."	
Read verse 8.	

Read verse 8. rightnow MEDIA

As we've already discussed in this study, the Colossians were being led astray by what Paul calls a "hollow and deceptive philosophy." Louie talked about the false belief —it said there was a secret insider way to get more access to God. Paul wrote to remind the Colossians of their foundation found only in Jesus and His gospel, not in any secret society. What are some examples of "hollow and deceptive" beliefs in our world?

PEEK AT THE GREEK

Paul addresses the Colossian heresy directly in verse 8 when he talks about the hollow and deceptive philosophy. The Colossians would have known exactly what he was referring to. He cave this philosophy is of human and spiritual

origin. The word he used to describe the spiritual forces, stoicheia, or "elements," refers to a Jewish tradition that says spiritual beings rule over humans. Paul debunks the myth that spiritual forces have any power over Christians. The deception the Colossians were following was contrary to the work of Christ, came from humans and evil spiritual forces that Jesus conquered through the cross (v. 15).	
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Louie encouraged us to filter everything we hear and read outside of Scripture through Jesus. We should ask: Does this idea have its foundation in Jesus and His Word? Why is it so important to discern the validity of ideas, books, and speakers through the lens of the Bible and Christ? What do we lose if we remove Jesus and the Bible from any "Christian" message? What are some ways you go about making sure something you hear or read is grounded in the truth of **Scripture?** (Reading the Bible, praying, seeking wise counsel, etc.) When we encounter ideas that are contrary to Jesus and His gospel, we can turn to truth and stand firm instead of going astray. The next two sections of Scripture explain why this is possible. The first section ties to Louie's third word, fullness. We've already talked about Jesus's divinity back in chapter 1 of Colossians. Why is it critical that Jesus is fully God? (If Jesus isn't fully God, He doesn't have the power to save us. He had to be both fully God and fully human in order to redeem us through His sacrifice.) Through Jesus—fully God and fully man—we find salvation from sin and death. According to verse 10, what do we receive in Christ? (We have been filled by Him.) As Louie discussed, we are fully complete in Jesus—we lack nothing. The salvation He brings to us doesn't need anything else. In Him, we experience the full and complete salvation of God. Why do you think we're sometimes tempted to think or act as though our salvation isn't enough?

GO DEEPER

Learn more about the significance of circumcision in the following verses: Gen. 17:9–14; Rom. 2:25–29

What did circumcision mean for the Israelites? (It was an external sign of that they were part of the covenant people of God.)

According to the Romans passage, what was the spiritual significance of circumcision?

What does it mean to have a heart circumcised by God? (It means to have a heart that is surrendered, obedient, and glorifying to God.)

When Paul talks about Jesus circumcising our hearts, he's using a relevant image the Jewish people recognized to explain a spiritual reality. Jesus has removed everything that kept us from being obedient to God. We can now enjoy being His covenant people because He made a way for us to be with Him.

These verses show how God is the one who secured our salvation through His actions alone. We can't add to it. Paul uses circumcision to explain his point. Circumcision was an external sign of the covenant Israel had with God. But the circumcision Paul talks about in verse 11 is not a physical but a spiritual circumcision. Our flesh, which used to rule us, has been taken off by Jesus. How would you describe life in the flesh? What was your life like before Jesus?

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In verse 11, Paul uses the word *acheiropoietos* to describe the spiritual circumcision we experience in Christ. Translated "by human hands" (NIV) or "made without hands" (ESV), this word is best defined by being "unhandmade." In other words, the salvation we receive in Jesus doesn't come by human hands. It comes from God. Therefore, it cannot be added to, destroyed, or tampered with. God Himself saves us, removes the old self, and raises us to new life—all by His power alone.

If our sinful flesh has been completely readoes that mean for us now? Does it mean Why not? (Jesus has taken away the consegiven us new life, and given us a new idenwill still sin this side of eternity, but we now Jesus's power and under His rule, not the rain, and death.)	n we don't sin? equence of sin, utity in Him. We v operate out of
When we decide to follow Jesus, our old so Him and we're raised to new life. Paul is cle power of God that both raised Jesus from the brought us to life again. How would you do new life you have in Christ?	ear that it's the the dead and
This idea of new life, found in verses 12 and to Louie's last word: finished work.	d 13, brings us
Read verses 13–15.	
Not only does Jesus bring us new life, but the forgiveness of sins. Without Jesus, Pau indebted to God because of our sin. We we According to verse 14, how did God cance (He did it by nailing it to the cross.) What do for us?	ul says we were ere guilty. eel our debt?
Through Jesus's death we have been given are no longer ruled by the flesh, and we're before God. Our salvation is a finished wor everything necessary to save us. What different make to the way you approach your relating God knowing that you can't add to or take your salvation?	e free from guilt rk—Jesus did ference does it tionship with
If our salvation is finished work, why do y still feel the tension between sin and Christill feel the tension because we live in a fad Jesus has not yet returned to restore all this meantime, we faithfully follow Him.)	ristlikeness? (We allen world.
Verse 15 tells us that in addition to all these has disarmed the spiritual authorities that of When Paul says Jesus made a "public specthe's alluding to a Roman practice. When Roman enemy, they'd parade them around, mal foolish. What's ironic is Jesus has defeated forces behind the authorities holding Paul prison. Paul has a clear view of who has the victory—the risen and reigning Jesus.	once ruled. ctacle of them," omans captured lking them look d the spiritual captive in

How could Paul's perspective shape the way you view your present circumstances? What could be different	
about us and the way we perceive the situations we're in if we remembered Jesus's victory on the cross?	
What's one thing you could do this week to deepen your foundation in Jesus and His gospel? (Some examples	
include: spend time with Him, read about His life, pray, put one of the Live it Out suggestions into practice, discuss the gospel story with a friend, etc.)	
LAST WORD	
LAST WORD	
Salvation is an incredible gift. We've received Christ and in Him we can continue to follow Him every day of our lives.	
He is our firm foundation. When we root ourselves in Him and His gospel message, we are able to discern when	
people and spiritual authorities try to deceive us.	
Jesus has overthrown these powers—He triumphed over them through the cross. We've received the fullness of	
salvation through His finished work. We are alive in Him. Nothing can undo the work Jesus has done to save us.	
We live on the other side of the cross and empty grave.	
With the reality of our salvation and Christ as our foundation, we can walk forward in obedience. This week, let's ask God to deepen our roots in Him. As we close,	
let's thank Him for what He's done for us.	
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Pray: Pray God would deepen your foundation in Him and the gospel this week. Ask Him to refresh the gospel message in you.	
Give Thanks: Verse 7 of this passage talks about overflowing with gratitude. Write down one thing you're thankful for every day this week and praise God for how He's moved in your life.	
Study: Deepen your understanding of the gospel by studying the first eight chapters of Romans. Take your time and write out your thoughts as you go.	
Create: Make something this week that reflects the truth that you've been brought from death to life. Place your creation somewhere you'll see it to remind yourself that you're alive in Christ.	

Memorize: Memorize Colossians 2:6–7 this week. Write it down and place it somewhere you'll see it throughout your day.