

9.2.18 Home Group Notes

Each week, I will include some of the insert notes from the Sunday message and also address you leaders with a comment that begins with **NOTES TO LEADERS**.

SHARE IT – Get to know one another

Share about a letter or email that is/was significant to you.

NOTES TO LEADERS: The idea of the “SHARE IT” portion each week is to give you a segway into the curriculum. The questions are designed to be something that everyone can share – no special knowledge or experience required.

STUDY THE WORD – Questions to help learn from the Bible

Our “Rooted” series comes from the book of Colossians. Read Colossians chapter 1, verses 1-8.

What do we learn about the recipients of Paul’s letter? How does he describe them? What is the basis of their relationship to one another and Paul? How did this happen?

NOTES TO LEADERS: I don’t always give you this much information. This is an example of what we can glean from the verses:

- Paul calls them holy (set aside for God) and faithful. (2)
- Their faith in Christ and love for others saints was known (4)
- The inspiration was because of their hope – stored in heaven. This came from the Gospel, the word of truth that they already heard. (5) (This “already heard” becomes important. There were people in their midst who we suggesting that they need to add something to this gospel.)
- The gospel came to them from Epaphras (7)
- In turn, Paul knew about the Colossians believers from Epaphras (7)
- Their love was expressed to Paul (8)

In 1:9-14, the author, Paul, tells them what he prays for them. List the specifics:

NOTES TO LEADERS: Here’s a start of the list:

- Fill you with the knowledge of his will
- This would include spiritual wisdom and understanding
- We pray that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him
- Etc.

How is this helpful to our own prayer lives?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Seeing Paul’s prayers helps us know how to pray for the big things in one another’s lives. This includes (1) spiritual maturity and growth, (2) to live in personal relationship with the Lord - pleasing to Him, and (3) to live a life of fruit bearing = being on mission.

DISCUSS TOGETHER – Conversations about application

Paul wrote of many admirable things about the recipients (1:1-8). Which of these stand out to you? Would any of these be something in which you would like to grow?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This gives people the opportunity / choice to be vulnerable about ways that they would like to grow. This is week #1 – be wise and sensitive.

It was suggested that the key focus in Colossians is that “Jesus is enough.” What might this mean?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This is one to let fly and see what happens. It might be silence and if so, move along to the next question.

How is the word “enough” a challenge in our culture? How might verses 13-14 speak to our culture of ‘never enough’?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This question aims at the theme of the book = Jesus is supreme in all things and enough in every way. In our culture, the operative word is “more.” We tend to live in dissatisfaction, discontent -- always striving for more or better or extra, etc..

PRAY – Suggestions for this week

NOTES TO NEW LEADERS: You don’t yet know who feels comfortable praying out loud. Be sensitive. But do talk about these before you pray: (1) We want to pray for one another. These are, like all things, private and not to be shared around. (2) We want to pray for one another during the week. Include the big things for which Paul prayed. (3) Who are the people in your world without Christ? How can we pray for you and for them?

- If you feel comfortable, share and pray for some immediate needs in your lives
- Pray about something from Paul’s prayer for your whole group (e.g. to “walk worthy”)
- Pray for the people in your world who are without a relationship with Christ. Pray for those you might want to bring to “Christianity Explored” (See more on our website, www.trinityonline.org)

APPLY IT THIS WEEK – A challenge to apply what we are learning

Pray for the people in your group including some requests that Paul prayed.

NOTES TO LEADERS: This would be good to suggest that this becomes a regular in our lives.