



## **Colossians Devotional Assignment**

Since the Scripture has been given by God to empower us to walk in faith with Him, we ask you to spend time reading and applying a specific section of God's Word. We also ask you to take some practical action steps including prayer, interactions with each other and meditation on a few verses each day. ("Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." Joshua 1:8.)

We believe these activities will equip and empower you to bring glory to God in an effective manner. Please know that we are not suggesting that you are not currently honoring our Lord; we know you are. As you make it your intention to develop a culture of peace here at Faith Church and Faith Christian School, and in your homes, our hope is that the Scripture and activities identified below will fuel your ability to do so.

As we work with congregations and schools around the country, we find that an intentional effort to "refocus" on His amazing truths and promises is needed. We have found that some of us have been captured by thinking that limits His work in us, others have simply been distracted from His ways, and others have become lazy in their faith. We hope this assignment will guide you in a process of refocusing. We also hope it will provide an excellent foundation for our work with you.

There are 3 major focuses of our assignment. First is the Word of God. Second is personal and interactive prayer. Third are some simple actions you can take, at times involving others. Our request is that you focus on Colossians 3. We ask you to read the entire chapter daily and meditate on one specific passage each day as well.

We believe a sincere effort is necessary at this time from each person who worships at Faith Church, is part of the Faith family, and/or attends or serves Faith Christian School and is a part of the School family. This assignment is one part of that effort. Will you follow this guide and participate with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?

Please note that some of your leaders and members will be asked to participate with us in conflict coaching meetings and mediations as well as other group meetings. They will have additional assignments to prepare for their involvement. Please pray for them (even though *you may or may not know who these individuals are*) and for us as we do this important work.

## **Colossians: Meditation, Prayer, and Interaction**

### **Assignment #1**

#### **Recommend 5 days of daily devotional time**

#### **Scripture Reading:**

Reacquaint yourself with the book of Colossians. Read its 4 chapters several times. Note the themes of the Apostle Paul's letter. (Beginning in the next assignment we will ask you to focus specifically on chapter 3. Spend most of your time this assignment reading and contemplating Chapters 1,2 and 4.)

#### **Personal Prayer:**

Spend time praying for your pastors, elders, school board members, and school leadership by name. Ask God to grant them His abundant grace and mercy.

Pray for the ministries of the church and school and their leaders and the many ways they assist others to know our Lord. Pray for the marriages represented within the church, and also for the children.

**Focus on Colossians 3:1** – “You have been raised with Christ.” Recall how you came to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Write out a sketch of the events that led you to give your life to Him. Thank Him for saving you, then spend time ‘proclaiming your continued trust in Him’ during your prayer time and throughout each day.

**Interaction with One Another:** Read your sketch or tell someone about how you came to faith in Christ. Pray together, giving thanks to God for His grace in your life.

## Assignment #2

### Recommend 6 days of daily devotional time

#### Scripture Reading:

Read Colossians 3 each morning before starting your day and each night before bedtime.

#### Meditation:

Print Colossians 3:12-17 on a paper and carry it with you during the day. Throughout the day reread those 6 verses, allowing them to 'wash over your mind'. (See Joshua 1:8)

#### Personal Prayer: Focus on Colossians 3:2 and 3:4

Identify ways you can "set your minds on things above" (Colossians 3:2); Think about how you can die to the things identified in Colossians 3:5 and 8. In prayer recommit your life to being focused on your Lord Jesus Christ and pleasing Him.

Consider what it means that "Christ is your life" (Colossians 3:4). Spend extra time each day praising our Lord for His majesty and for being our life! Identify elements of His nature that set Him above every created being. Express your submission to Him.

**Interaction with One Another:** Talk with someone in the church or school about how you are seeking to set your heart and mind on things above (Col. 3:1, 2). Listen to how they are doing the same. Pray together about how you might increase your focus on Christ and His purposes for your life. Confess how you have allowed any of the sins in Colossians 3:5 and 8 to enter in and divert your focus. Pray for each other to cease these actions as you increasingly set your hearts and minds on Christ.

## Assignment #3

### Recommend 7 days of daily devotional time

#### Scripture Reading:

Please read Colossians 3 each morning before starting your day and each night before bedtime.

#### Meditation:

Print Colossians 3:12-17 on a paper and carry it with you during the day. Throughout the day reread those 6 verses, allowing them to 'wash over your mind'. (See Joshua 1:8)

#### Personal Prayer: Focus on Colossians 3:9-11

Notice how putting on the 'new self', which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of Christ (v. 10), impacts our behavior toward one another ("Do not lie to each other..." v. 9). What are the qualities of Christ that He wants to instill in you so that you might grow into His image? How might that renewal impact your behavior toward others?

**Interaction with One Another:** Pray with someone about better understanding who Christ is. Identify ways that He is different from you. What other passages of Scripture speak to this? (One example: Colossians 1:15-20.)

## Assignment #4

### Recommend 7 days of daily devotional time

#### Scripture Reading:

Please read Colossians 3 each morning before starting your day and each night before bedtime.

#### Meditation:

Print Colossians 3:12-17 on a paper and carry it with you during the day. Throughout the day reread those 6 verses, allowing them to 'wash over your mind'. (See Joshua 1:8)

#### Personal Prayer: Focus on Colossians 3:12 and 13

Reflecting on Colossians 3:12, make a list of ways you demonstrate the 5 qualities listed...compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience. Then make a list of 3 or 4 people to whom you have a hard time demonstrating these qualities.

**Interaction with One Another:** Pray with someone about how you might better demonstrate these character traits to others, especially those with whom you have a difficult time doing so.

Reflecting on Colossians 3:13, make a list of those against whom you have a complaint. Then list reasons why you should "bear with them" and "forgive them". Ask yourself why this might be a challenge for you. Consider how God forgives us, and what this means for our forgiveness of others. Colossians 3:13, "Forgive as the Lord forgives you."

**Interaction with One Another:** Ask someone to pray with you, asking God to change your heart to one that is more like His, forgiving and patient with others.

## Assignment #5

### Recommend 7 days of daily devotional time

#### Scripture Reading:

Please read Colossians 3 each morning before starting your day and each night before bedtime.

#### Meditation:

Print Colossians 3:12-17 on a paper and carry it with you during the day. Throughout the day reread those 6 verses, allowing them to 'wash over your mind'. (See Joshua 1:8)

#### Personal Prayer: Focus on Colossians 3:14 and 15

Focus on Colossians 3:14 and 18-25. Notice that loving others is essential to unity. (Remember that Christ has called us to unity; consider John 17 and Jesus' prayer for His followers to be unified, and why He said this mattered.) How might you show love to those listed in verses 18-25? Make a list of the ways you can demonstrate love to those listed in Assignment #4.

**Interaction with One Another:** Select one or more of those listed in this passage and go and show love to them. Make it practical, and don't worry about any other factors that may have kept you from showing love in the past.

Colossians 3:15 is one of the most impacting verses in the Bible. If you are unfamiliar with it, be sure to get to know each phrase in this sentence. How do you restrict the peace of Christ from ruling in your heart? What does it mean to be members of one body who were "called to peace"? For what are you to "be thankful"?

**Interaction with One Another:** Talk with others about your answers to the 3 questions just listed. Perhaps you can take a few minutes to discuss this with those with whom you are in close community. Make a list of why God would call you *as a church and school* to His peace. Have each person express thankfulness to God for one of the things listed or something specific in their life.

## Assignment #6

### Recommend 7 days of daily devotional time

#### Scripture Reading:

Please read Colossians 3 each morning before starting your day and each night before bedtime.

#### Meditation:

Print Colossians 3:12-17 on a paper and carry it with you during the day. Throughout the day reread those 6 verses, allowing them to 'wash over your mind'. (See Joshua 1:8)

#### Personal Prayer: Focus on Colossians 3:16-17

Colossians 3:16 encourage the activities prescribed in this assignment. What has it been like to "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" these past few weeks? How has His Word encouraged you? Make a list of "wisdom statements" (e.g., revelations, reflections, reactions) you discovered as you've engaged with this assignment.

**Interaction with One Another:** Find a Psalm, hymn, or praise song through which you can express thankfulness in your heart to God. Read them with someone. Pray together and, *if you are brave enough* (we are smiling as we write this), sing the hymn or song together as verse 16 instructs!

Focus on Colossians 3:17. Ask yourself what words you might speak, or deeds you might do, in the name of our Lord Jesus – words or deeds that He would say or do if He were here. What words or deeds would bring honor and glory to His name? Make a list of the ways gratitude is rooting in your heart as you reflect on who He is and what He has done for you.

**Interaction with One Another:** Please pray with someone for us (David & Roger) and for each person with whom we will be working. Pray that the results of our work fully honor our Lord Jesus Christ. Ask Him to show each person what 'word' and 'deed' would bring Him glory. Pray for each to have the courage to do these things.

### Colossians 3

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup>You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup>But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup>Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

<sup>18</sup>Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

<sup>19</sup>Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

<sup>20</sup>Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

<sup>22</sup>Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. <sup>23</sup>Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, <sup>24</sup>since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. <sup>25</sup>Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.