

Colossians 3:15-4:1

07 | Life in Christ

VIDEOBIBLETALKS

Intro

15 minutes

Help your group get ready to listen to God speak through the Bible and the work of the Holy Spirit.

> Welcome and notices

🗨️ Pray

Invite one of the group to pray for your time together (or ask another leader to pray).

- Thank God for your time together.
- Ask that the group might know Jesus better as you listen to God's word.
- Ask that the Holy Spirit would be at work helping us to hear what God is saying to us.

🗨️ Opening questions

Ask the following questions to help your group start thinking about today's Bible passage.

- Where do you find it easiest or hardest to live as a follower of Jesus?
- Why do you think we find it hard sometimes?

Discuss

25 minutes

Spend time listening to God speak and then make sure we have understood what is being said.

📖 Read the Bible

Colossians 3:15-4:1

🎥 Play the video

07 Life in Christ

🗨️ Follow-up discussion

Make sure that the group have their Bibles open at today's passage...

- > Take a look at v15-17, where we see what life in Christ should look like with other Christians...
 - Who or what is to rule our hearts and dwell in our lives?
 - How are we to treat other Christians? What are we particularly to do together?
 - How does v17 sum all this up?

- > In 3v18-4v1 we are shown how to live life in Christ in our various relationships. In each of these examples (husbands and wives, parents (fathers in particular) and children, workers and masters) there are those who are to live *under* the responsibility of others, and those who are to take responsibility *for* others.
 - Who is to take responsibility and who is to live under responsibility in...
 - a marriage relationship?
 - a family relationship (whether parental, adopted or as legal guardians)?
 - a working relationship (including school/college)?

Engage

15 minutes

Begin connecting what God has said with the people in your group.

Think it through

Invite your group to talk about these questions and share their thoughts...

- > How are you doing at 'letting the peach of Christ rule in your heart' and 'letting the word of Christ dwell in you richly'?
 - What do you find easy about these things?
 - What do you struggle with?
- > In what ways are you under the responsible of others in these relationships?
 - How are you doing at living in a godly and Christ-like way in how you live under the responsibility of others?
- > In what ways are you responsible for others in the various relationships listed in 3v18-4v1?
 - How are you doing at living in a godly and Christ-like way in how you take responsibility for other people?

Apply

10 minutes

Help your group to see what difference this needs to make in their relationship with Jesus and in their everyday lives.

Preach the Gospel

Before you pray to finish, remind your group of the following points...

- The heart of being a follower of Jesus is receiving him as Lord by believing in his death and resurrection as the only way you are loved, forgiven and accepted by God.
- In Christ, we have been given new life with God. This new life is radically different from our old life where we lived according to our earthly nature of sin and self.

- In our new life in Christ, we can enjoy the peace of letting Jesus rule in our hearts. We can also let the Word of Christ (which we have in the Bible) live abundantly in our lives as we teach and help each other to live like Jesus and live for Jesus.
- Our new life in Christ also affects our earthly relationships. Life in Christ means willingly living under the responsibility of others, and it means taking responsibility for those that God has placed in your care.
- Colossians 3:23-24 speaks of our inheritance and reward from the Lord. It is tempting to think that this inheritance and rewards depends on whether or not we live like Jesus. Yet this is not the Gospel! We are given an inheritance and a reward because of Jesus' death and resurrection... and it is because of Jesus that we can now enjoy the new life that we have been given, in Him.

Share your thoughts

Ask the following questions...

- What ways has God encouraged you through this bit of the Bible?
- What ways has God challenged you through this bit of the Bible?
- How has God strengthened your faith in Jesus today?

Pray it in

Invite the group to spend the remaining time in prayer together.

- > Give thanks for the new life that we now have in Christ, all because of his death and resurrection.
- > Ask God to help you to let the peace of Christ rule in your heart and the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
- > Ask God to help you to live under responsibility and take responsibility for others in a way that is godly and Christ-like.