

## **5-Day Bible Reading Guide**

### **Day 1: The Image of the Invisible God**

#### **Reading: Colossians 1:15-20**

**Devotional:** Today, we contemplate the awe-inspiring truth that Jesus Christ is "the image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15). This profound reality invites us to deepen our understanding of who God is. As we read this passage, let's reflect on how Jesus reveals the very nature and character of God to us.

Consider how your view of God has been shaped by Jesus. In what ways does knowing Jesus help you better understand the Father's love, wisdom, and power? Take a moment to praise God for revealing Himself so fully through Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue increasing your knowledge of God, remembering that as A.W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."

### **Day 2: The Preeminence of Christ**

#### **Reading: Colossians 1:16-18**

**Devotional:** Our passage today emphasizes Christ's supremacy over all creation. He is not a part of creation, but the very source and sustainer of it all. This truth challenges us to examine Christ's place in our own lives. Is He truly preeminent, first in everything?

Reflect on areas of your life where you might be holding back from fully surrendering to Christ's lordship. It could be your career, relationships, finances, or personal ambitions. Remember, Christ's preeminence is not just a theological concept, but a practical reality that should shape every aspect of our lives.

Ask God to help you see where you've been reluctant to fully submit to Christ and ask him to help you surrender it to His authority, trusting that His Lordship is always for your good and His glory. Pray for the strength to consistently acknowledge His preeminence in all things.

### **Day 3: Reconciliation Through Christ**

#### **Reading: Colossians 1:19-23**

**Devotional:** The heart of the gospel shines brightly in today's reading: God's work of reconciliation through Christ. Despite our alienation from God due to sin, Christ's sacrifice on the cross has made peace and restored our relationship with the Father.

Take time to ponder the magnitude of this reconciliation. Remember your life before Christ and the transformation that has occurred since. Give thanks for the peace you now have with God. This reconciliation is not just a past event, but an ongoing reality that should impact how we live each day.

Pray for opportunities to share the message of reconciliation with someone today.

### **Day 4: Growing in the Knowledge of God**

#### **Reading: Colossians 1:9-14**

**Devotional:** Paul's prayer for the Colossians focuses on their spiritual growth, particularly in knowing God more deeply. This echoes the theme from our sermon about the importance of continually increasing in our knowledge of God.

Remember that knowing God is not just about accumulating information, but about a deepening relationship that transforms us into those who walk worthy of the name of Jesus over us.

Today, commit to a specific action that will help you grow in your knowledge of God. It might be setting aside extra time for Bible study, finding a book that explores an aspect of God's character, or seeking out a mature believer to discuss spiritual matters. Ask God to increase your hunger for knowing Him more.

### **Day 5: Living Worthy of the Lord**

#### **Reading: Colossians 1:10-12**

**Devotional:** Our final reading exhorts us to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord." This ties together all we've reflected on this week – our knowledge of God should lead to a life that pleases Him.

Consider what it means to live a life worthy of the Lord in your specific context. How does your growing knowledge of God's character and Christ's preeminence shape your daily choices and priorities? Remember, we

don't live this way to earn God's love, but in response to the love and reconciliation we've already received in Christ.

Conclude this week's devotions by writing a prayer of commitment, expressing your desire to know God more deeply and to live in a manner that reflects His character and supremacy in your life.

### **Questions for Reflection and Discussion**

- How does your understanding of God impact your daily life and decisions? Reflect on A.W. Tozer's quote: 'What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.'
- In what ways can we actively pursue a deeper knowledge of God, as Paul encourages in Colossians? How might this pursuit change our relationship with Him?
- How does the concept of Jesus as 'the image of the invisible God' shape your understanding of His nature and role in the Trinity?
- How does the preeminence of Christ challenge areas in your life where you may be holding onto control or autonomy?
- What are some practical ways we can participate in Christ's ongoing work of reconciliation in our communities and relationships?
- How does the idea of Christ reconciling 'all things' to Himself through the cross challenge our understanding of salvation, judgment, and God's ultimate purposes?
- How might a deeper understanding of Christ's person, preeminence, and purpose motivate us to share the gospel more boldly?
- In light of this passage, how can we cultivate a sense of awe and wonder at the vastness and glory of God in our worship and daily lives?
- How can we balance growing in theological knowledge with maintaining a sense of awe and humility before God's incomprehensible nature?

### **Questions for Family Discussion**

- When you hear the word "God," what do you think of? How would you describe God to someone who didn't know him?
- Colossians 1:15 says that God the Son is the "image of the invisible God." What do you think this means?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus created everything, including you?
- What do you think it means for Jesus to be in charge of everything? How can we show that we respect and follow Him in our daily lives?
- Why do you think it's important to share what we know about Jesus with others? Can you think of someone you would like to share Jesus with this week?
- What are some ways we can learn more about God and get to know Him better?