

## **5 Day Bible Reading Guide**

### **Day 1: Our New Identity in Christ**

#### **Reading: Colossians 1:1-8**

**Devotional:** As we begin our study through Colossians, we're immediately confronted with the transformational power of the gospel. Paul reminds us that in Christ, we have a new identity. This isn't just a slight change or improvement, it's a complete redefining of who we are.

Reflect on what it means to be "in Christ." How does this new identity impact your daily life? Are there areas where you still cling to old identities or worldly definitions of success and purpose? Take time to thank God for the grace that has brought you into this new life and ask Him to help you fully embrace your identity in Christ.

### **Day 2: Citizens of Heaven**

#### **Reading: Philippians 3:17-21**

**Devotional:** Yesterday, we explored our new identity in Christ. Today, we go deeper into what it means to have a new citizenship in His kingdom. Paul tells the Philippians that our citizenship is in heaven, echoing his message to the Colossians about being "in Christ."

As citizens of heaven, our allegiance is first and foremost to Christ. This doesn't mean we neglect our earthly responsibilities, but it does change our perspective on them. How might your daily decisions change if you constantly remembered your heavenly citizenship? In what ways can you represent Christ's kingdom in your workplace, home, or community today?

### **Day 3: Children of God**

#### **Reading: 1 John 3:1-3**

**Devotional:** Our new identity in Christ isn't just about citizenship; it's about family. John marvels at the love of God that allows us to be called His children. This is not a metaphor - through Christ, we are adopted into God's family with all the rights and privileges that entails.

Spend some time meditating on what it means to be a child of God. How does this change your view of yourself? Of others? Of your relationship with God? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grasp the depth of God's love for you as His child and to live in light of that love today.

### **Day 4: Hope Secured in Christ**

#### **Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

**Devotional:** Paul spoke to the Colossians about the hope laid up for them in heaven. Peter expands on this, describing our living hope through Christ's resurrection. This hope isn't wishful thinking; it's a certainty grounded in the finished work of Jesus.

Our hope in Christ affects how we view both present trials and future glory. How does the certainty of your eternal inheritance impact your current struggles? In what ways can you let this hope shape your attitudes and actions today? Thank God for the unshakeable hope we have in Christ.

### **Day 5: Christ in You, the Hope of Glory**

#### **Reading: Colossians 1:24-29**

**Devotional:** We conclude our week by returning to Colossians, focusing on Paul's profound statement: "Christ in you, the hope of glory." This encapsulates the themes we've explored all week - our new identity, citizenship, family status, and hope are all found in our union with Christ.

The indwelling presence of Christ is the source of our transformation and the guarantee of our future glory. How does this truth change the way you approach your spiritual growth? Your daily challenges? Your interactions with others? Ask God to make you more aware of Christ's presence in you and to let that presence shine through you to others.

### **Questions for Reflection & Family Discussion**

- In what ways might we be tempted to 'dilute' Christ's supremacy in our lives, and how can we guard against this?
- What are some specific ways the false teachings mentioned in Colossians might manifest in our modern context?
- How does seeing God as our Father through Christ impact our daily lives and relationship with Him?
- What are some practical ways we can live out our new family identity with our brothers and sisters in Christ?
- How does the biblical concept of hope differ from the world's understanding, and why is this distinction important?
- How does understanding our identity in Christ help us resist the 'gospel of individualism' prevalent in our culture?
- In what ways can we remind ourselves and one another of the certainty of our hope in Christ during times of doubt or difficulty?

### **Family Discussion Guide**

- Supplies Needed: Blank index cards or paper, colored pencils or markers.
- Activity: Ask each family member to draw something that represents their identity (favorite hobbies, family, favorite animal, etc.). Once everyone is finished, discuss how our identity in Jesus is even greater and more central, important than these things.
- What do you think it means to be a citizen of Jesus' kingdom?
- What does it mean to have hope in something or someone you can trust, like Jesus?
- What are some ways you can show others your identity in Christ this week?