



*When our priorities and beliefs are a little off, then our lives and actions get way off. The Colossians had fuzzy ideas about Jesus and who He was. The church of Colossae began to allow wrong beliefs to influence their values and their actions. The wrong beliefs of Gnosticism (coming from the Greek word for knowledge) had infiltrated the church and they began to mis-understand who Jesus was. He wasn't just a man or a good teacher or the imparter of wisdom. Jesus is God—the second person of the trinity—who created everything all the way back to Genesis 1:1.*

9. Share a time when you first realized that reality was much bigger than just your limited perspective. What opened your eyes to that? Where were you? Who was involved in opening your eyes?
10. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Colossians 1:13-18.*

*For he has **rescued** us from the kingdom of darkness and **transferred** us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14 who **purchased** our freedom and **forgave** our sins. 15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is **supreme** over all creation. 16 Christ is the one who created everything in heaven and earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—kings, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities. Everything has been created through him and **for him**. 17 He existed before anything else. He is before all things, and **in him all things hold together**—even all of creation holds together. 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. Colossians 1:13-18*

11. How does Paul describe our salvation in verses 13- & 14? What 4 things to God do for in in these verses?
12. Those 4 things God did for us—*rescued, transferred, purchased, and forgave* us—Jesus did for us. Starting in verse 15, how were the beliefs of the young church at Colossae off about Jesus? (*Look at what Paul talked about Jesus in the above verses.*)
13. What are some of the characteristics that Paul gives us about Jesus starting in verse 15? (*example: God the Spirit is invisible, yet Jesus is visible image.*)
14. In verse 15, Paul describes Jesus as supreme over all creation. Synonyms of supreme consist of *highest, best, ultimate, absolute, extreme, top, greatest, matchless, untouchable, unbeatable, unmatched*. “He is supreme over all...” He already is first. He is the Boss. He is the person in charge. Is He the One in charge of your life? Does He have first place in your life?
15. In verse 17 we see that Jesus holds all things together. Have you ever tried to keep it all together on your own? How have you failed at keeping your life held together?
16. How have you seen the power of Jesus hold all things together when you cannot? Do you trust that HE can hold all things together? What is an area of your life that you need to relinquish to the power of Jesus because you can no longer hold it together on your own?
17. What do you need to do “widen” your view of reality to realize that Jesus is supreme, *not you*?

## MOVING FORWARD

In what areas of your life is Jesus not first place? Is He your Lord? Your Boss? Is He supreme in every area of your life—finances, values, priorities, entertainment choices, relationships, dating, family?

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Challenge yourselves as a group to read through the book of Colossians every week during this series. It is only 4 chapters! You can do it! Schedule out four days of each week where you will read one chapter of Colossians (Or decide on your own reading plan in order to read all of Colossians each week for the next few weeks).

