

# C<sup>1</sup> onechurch

## bigIdea small group discussion

Surveys show that around eighty percent of us make New Year's resolutions. But the same surveys show that we break most of them in the first two months. Each New Year we have a chance to start over. But the question is, "What is your top priority?" For many of us it's relationships, health, friends, family, and finances.

We're challenging everyone to not put Jesus first, at the top of your new-years-resolution-list-of-things-to-do. But instead, allow Jesus to infiltrate every single thing you do this year. Allow his Spirit to be active in every area of your life.



**BIG IDEA:** Don't put Jesus first on your list. It's not Jesus *then*, but Jesus *in*.

I have one piece of advice for you as we start out this New Year: **Don't put Jesus first this year.** Yes, you read that correctly. Before you label me a heretic, let me explain. I imagine that many of you are going through a similar process as me right now of setting and resetting your priorities. Personally, I love this time of year. I'm a very goal-oriented individual and I've found that reprioritizing and recalibrating your life is an indispensable activity if you really want to actualize your potential.

And here's what it usually looks like. We start by putting Jesus at the top. Then family. Then maybe career. And so on. So our priorities look something like this:

1. Jesus/God
2. Family
3. Career

Looks good. The problem is that a list like this tends to compartmentalize life in a way that doesn't fit neatly into a real, ordinary day. Just putting Jesus at the top of a list isn't very effective when you get down to the grind of everyday life. For example, what does it even mean to put Jesus before my family? Do I ignore my family to spend more time with Jesus? Or with your career, do you stop working to put Jesus first?

**The neat and tidy list of 1, 2, and 3 seldom fits into an ordinary day and tends to take Jesus out of those places that we most need Him!** The essential problem with this approach is that it segregates the different priorities of life. You end up removing Jesus from where you spend the majority of your time and putting Him on an island by Himself. The biggest island maybe, but an island nonetheless. I don't think this is the way it was ever supposed to work.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How many New Year's resolutions can you remember that you have tried? Did you actually keep any of those to this day?
2. How many New Year's resolutions can you remember that you have tried? Did you actually keep any of those to this day?
3. What New Year's resolutions are you making for this year? How do you plan on keeping your resolutions?
4. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Colossians 1:15-20.* Which part or parts of this passage jump out at you right away? Why?
5. Paul paints a vivid and detailed picture of Jesus in this passage. What do you learn about Jesus from looking at this portrait?
6. What does *firstborn* mean in relation to creation (v.15) and the dead (v.18)?
7. Given Christ's supreme role in creation, (vv.15-17) what does that imply to the church (v.18)? To heavenly beings (v.20)? For all earthly powers and authority (also Colossians 2:10)?
8. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Colossians 1:17.* 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?
9. Jesus is the One who holds everything together. How have you seen Him function as the cosmic adhesive that holds your life together?
10. 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?
11. What kind of year was last year for you spiritually?
12. In what ways did your spiritual enemy distract you last year? How did you handle these distractions?

*To learn more about how Jesus holds us together, check out Louie Giglio's talk on Laminin. ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0-NPPIeeRk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0-NPPIeeRk))*

## MOVING FORWARD

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you put God first in all areas of life:

Put God first at the beginning of each day by setting aside time for prayer and reading the Bible. Some great reading plans are available on YouVersion at <http://www.youversion.com/reading-plans/all>. You'll find everything from beginner plans to challenges to read the whole Bible this year. Find one you know you can stick to and start your year out by committing to read His Word daily.

Consider putting God first in your year with a 21-day fast. If you have never fasted before, learn about fasting by clicking [here](#). YouVersion also offers a special reading plan to lead you through your 21-day fast at <http://www.youversion.com/reading-plans/21-day-fast>.

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation. Everything was created through him and for him. Jesus is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He Himself will come to have first place in everything.* Colossians 1:15-18