

SERMON GROUP STUDY GUIDE

What was the most significant thing you learned from the sermon or something in the sermon you didn't quite understand?

INTRO

How does fixing our eyes on Jesus function like training at a higher altitude?
What are some things—good or bad—that most easily pull your eyes off Christ during a normal week?

How do you usually notice that your focus has shifted

DIGGING INTO THE TEXT - COLOSSIANS 3:1-14

- In what way have believers died?
- When Paul says we have been raised with Christ he is referring to the ultimate reality for all who believe in the gospel that he has explained in his letter so far. He is not writing figuratively. What is he trying to drive home?
- What does it mean to 'seek' and 'set your minds on' something?
- In what ways are our lives hidden with Christ in God? In other words, what present security and safety do we have in Him?
- How does the phrase "Christ who is your life" summarize what Paul is saying in these 4 verses?
- Why is it so important for the Colossians to understand and remember their future? What about us?

TAKEAWAYS

A HEAVENLY FOCUS MAKES AN EARTHLY DIFFERENCE

John 17:15; Matthew 6:9-10; Acts 2:42; Romans 12:2

Because we have died to the influence and power of this world and have been raised to a new life as citizens of heaven by what Christ has done, we can and should focus our life on heavenly values and priorities.

What steps can you take to love heavenly values and priorities more than the earthly values and priorities that often motivate you?

How can a heavenly focus help us put into perspective both the difficult things and good things in this life?

IS JESUS CHRIST YOUR LIFE?

Philippians 1:21; Colossians 3:11

Answer honestly: If I lost _____, I would feel like I had no purpose.

- Why does that thing feel so central to your sense of identity or worth?
- How does the way you protect, pursue, or prioritize that thing show what you are living for?
- In what ways might that good thing be competing with Christ for first place in your life?
- How can you hold that thing in submission to Christ rather than letting it define you?

LEADERS: Close by praying Colossians 3:1-4 over your group.