

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

If you could have any place in the world completely to yourself for one day, where would you choose?

1. The Bible describes Jesus as “the visible image of the invisible God” and “the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being...” ([Colossians 1:15](#); [Hebrews 1:3](#)). How does this “big picture” impact your understanding of Jesus as a baby in a manger or as your Savior on the cross?
2. Read [Colossians 1:15-18](#). In this passage discussing Jesus, what attributes, actions, or jurisdiction of Christ most stretch your understanding of who He is and how does it deepen your appreciation of His love for you?
3. Pastor Tom points to three different Biblical analogies of the church calling her Christ’s body ([Colossians 1:18](#)), God’s family ([Romans 8:19-22](#)), and Christ’s Kingdom ([Colossians 1:13](#); [Philippians 3:20-21](#)). Which of these most deeply resonates with you, and how do you see yourself fitting into that picture?
4. In [Colossians 1:23a](#), [2:4](#), [8](#) Paul warns the church against three “detours” that will lead them away from Jesus: passive drift, teachers of false doctrine, and “high-sounding” human philosophies. How do these “detours” differ, and to which are you most vulnerable? What step can you take to stay on course?
5. Pastor Tom asked, “Is Jesus first in your life today?” and “Have you gotten off course in your relationships with Jesus?” Is your mind and heart focused on Jesus, “who has done it all and who is above all?” If not, what is keeping you from saying your own personal ‘YES!’ or refocusing on Him?

Day One: [Luke 17](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 11](#)

Day Three: [Philippians 4](#)

Day Four: [Revelation 18](#)

Day Five: [Song of Songs 7](#)

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner’s Bible Reading System.

PERSONAL GUIDE



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



FOCUS UP

“WHO IS YOUR FOCUS?”

Jan 14, 2024 Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



FOCUS UP

MESSAGE NOTES

"WHO IS YOUR FOCUS?"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

...what we're focused on _____ everything about our lives personally, internally, spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. So who is Jesus?

1. Jesus Is _____ All

Paul wants us to have the _____ of who Jesus is... Jesus is above everything because He is _____ (note [Colossians 1:15](#); [Hebrews 1:3](#); [John 1:18](#)). *Firstborn* - doesn't mean He is created, but that He's the _____, the Sovereign One, the Pre-Eminent One.

Jesus is the Creator and _____ of the universe, seen and unseen (note [Colossians 1:16-17](#)). (Note [Colossians 1:18](#)) - God created the 3 main institutions for humanity:

- Family
- Government
- _____

The only one that lasts _____ is God's family, Jesus' Body, the Church. And Jesus is the _____ (Ruler, Sovereign, Pre-Eminent) over the Church. Jesus is the first to be raised from the dead with a _____ body (note [1 Corinthians 15:20](#)).

So is Jesus _____ in your life today?

2. Jesus Has _____ It All

In Jesus, the _____ of all that God is and all His attributes and all the power that God has is found. Note [Colossians 1:19-20](#). One day even this broken world...will be reconciled and restored by Jesus to His original _____ at creation (note [Romans 8:19-22](#)).

But the _____ of God's creation (people) is the most important object of Jesus' work (note [Colossians 1:11-14](#)). We don't fully appreciate how _____ darkness is or how brilliant Jesus' light is because we are limited in comprehension here on earth.

Jesus made it possible for us to escape the _____ kingdom of darkness and given us the high privilege of new citizenship in His Kingdom of light and life and victory and hope and joy (note [Philippians 3:20-21](#)). Note [Colossians 1:21](#) and [1:22a](#).

It's because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross (seemingly His greatest defeat, but in reality His greatest victory...) that what we could never fix, repair, hide, ignore, or excuse ourselves has completely reversed who we were...into full-fledged members of Jesus' forever family (note [Colossians 1:22b](#)).

3. Because We Now Have It All...

...don't take _____ from this incredible gift of new life and grace that Jesus has provided for you (note [Colossians 1:23a](#)). Don't embrace _____ teachings/teachers (note [Colossians 2:4, 8](#)). Keep your mind and heart focused on Jesus (note [Colossians 3:1-2](#)).

Gladly exchange your old wardrobe for Jesus' amazing ultimate _____ collection (note [Colossians 3:12](#)). _____ His perfect design for every relationship (note [Colossians 3:15-4:1](#)).

Am I focused UP?

- Have you said your 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord?
- Have you gotten _____ in your relationship with Jesus?
- Today is the day to get your focus back up where it belongs on Jesus who has done it all and who is above all.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
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MESSAGE NOTES

"WHO IS YOUR FOCUS?"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

...what we're focused on impacts everything about our lives personally, internally, spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. So who is Jesus?

1. Jesus Is Above All

Paul wants us to have the big picture of who Jesus is... Jesus is above everything because He is God Almighty (note [Colossians 1:15](#); [Hebrews 1:3](#); [John 1:18](#)). Firstborn - doesn't mean He is created, but that He's the Ruler, the Sovereign One, the Pre-Eminent One.

Jesus is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, seen and unseen (note [Colossians 1:16-17](#)). (Note [Colossians 1:18](#)) - God created the 3 main institutions for humanity:

- Family
- Government
- Church

The only one that lasts eternity is God's family, Jesus' Body, the Church. And Jesus is the Head (Ruler, Sovereign, Pre-Eminent) over the Church. Jesus is the first to be raised from the dead with a resurrected body (note [1 Corinthians 15:20](#)).

So is Jesus first in your life today?

2. Jesus Has Done It All

In Jesus, the totality of all that God is and all His attributes and all the power that God has is found. Note [Colossians 1:19-20](#). One day even this broken world...will be reconciled and restored by Jesus to His original intent at creation (note [Romans 8:19-22](#)).

But the pinnacle of God's creation (people) is the most important object of Jesus' work (note [Colossians 1:11-14](#)). We don't fully appreciate how dark darkness is or how brilliant Jesus' light is because we are limited in comprehension here on earth.

Jesus made it possible for us to escape the doomed kingdom of darkness and given us the high privilege of new citizenship in His Kingdom of light and life and victory and hope and joy (note [Philippians 3:20-21](#)). Note [Colossians 1:21](#) and [1:22a](#).

It's because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross (seemingly His greatest defeat, but in reality His greatest victory...) that what we could never fix, repair, hide, ignore, or excuse ourselves has completely reversed who we were...into full-fledged members of Jesus' forever family (note [Colossians 1:22b](#)).

3. Because We Now Have It All...

...don't take detours from this incredible gift of new life and grace that Jesus has provided for you (note [Colossians 1:23a](#)). Don't embrace false teachings/teachers (note [Colossians 2:4, 8](#)). Keep your mind and heart focused on Jesus (note [Colossians 3:1-2](#)).

Gladly exchange your old wardrobe for Jesus' amazing ultimate Designer collection (note [Colossians 3:12](#)). Embrace His perfect design for every relationship (note [Colossians 3:15-4:1](#)).

Am I focused UP?

- Have you said your 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord?
- Have you gotten off course in your relationship with Jesus?
- Today is the day to get your focus back up where it belongs on Jesus who has done it all and who is above all.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



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