



Being and sharing
the good news

Discovering ways to share and be the Good News of Jesus Christ.

REVIEW

Recap on your experience of the challenge. Ask the following questions:

How did it go? Was it helpful?

If you weren't able to try the challenge, explore the question:

Where and how did you experience God last week?

WORD LYFE SAVIOUR

In order to be able to communicate our faith, we need to have a clear focus on Christ.

READ

Colossians 1.9-23

The Person and Work of Christ

⁹ We have not stopped praying for you since the first day we heard about you. In fact, we always pray that God will show you everything he wants you to do and that you may have all the wisdom and understanding that his Spirit gives. ¹⁰ Then you will live a life that honours the Lord, and you will always please him by doing good deeds. You will come to know God even better. ¹¹ His glorious power will make you patient and strong enough to endure anything, and you will be truly happy. ¹² I pray that you will be grateful to God for letting you have part in what

he has promised his people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ God rescued us from the dark power of Satan and brought us into the kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who forgives our sins and sets us free.

¹⁵ Christ is exactly like God, who cannot be seen. He is the first-born Son, superior to all creation. ¹⁶ Everything was created by him, everything in heaven and on earth, everything seen and unseen, including all forces and powers, and all rulers and authorities. All things were created by God's Son, and everything was made for him.

¹⁷ God's Son was before all else, and by him everything is held together.

¹⁸ He is the head of his body, which is the church. He is the very beginning, the first to be raised from death, so that he

would be above all others. ¹⁹ God himself was pleased to live fully in his Son.

²⁰ And God was pleased for him to make peace by sacrificing his blood on the cross, so that all beings in heaven and on earth would be brought back to God. ²¹ You used to be far from God. Your thoughts made you his enemies, and you did evil things. ²² But his Son became a human and died. So God made peace with you, and now he lets you stand in his presence as people who are holy and faultless and innocent. ²³ But you must stay deeply rooted and firm in your faith. You must not give up the hope you received when you heard the good news. It was preached to everyone on earth, and I myself have become a servant of this message.

Contemporary English Verse - CEV

REFLECT

Setting the scene:

- ▶ Paul writes to the Christians at Colossae in response to problems created by other ideas and philosophies creeping into Christianity, some of these ideas were a direct challenge to the supremacy of Jesus.
- ▶ The Colossians needed a fresh vision of Christ and this is the

theme of this letter. Jesus is the living expression of God, active in creation and sustaining all that exists. He is the first in God's new creation, his people, his church. His sacrifice makes peace with God possible.

- ▶ Paul proclaims that salvation is through Christ alone. When we share our faith, we must help people to understand that Jesus is the core of the Christian faith.

- ▶ What are the 'shockers' and 'blockers' for you in this passage?
- ▶ In what ways have you grown in understanding and wisdom about God?
- ▶ What inspires you most about Christ?

RESPOND

Saviour challenge: As a group, create a challenge that will help you increase your understanding and knowledge about Christ.

Challenge ideas:
If you struggle to come up with your own challenge then why not try one of the following...

01 This Is Your Life

This week, take time to saturate yourself in the Gospels - these are the clearest portraits we have of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It might help to use a paraphrase version of the Bible such as The Message - the Contemporary English Version (CEV) is also good. There is also a 'red letter' Bible - where the words of Jesus are written in red. The aim here is to get to know Christ better. You might want

to use concordances and commentaries (available online) to help you. Glo is also a great digital resource which includes videos and resources about the life of Christ.

See more at www.bibleglo.com

02 Jesus of Nazareth/ Miracles of Jesus

How about arranging to get together to watch Franco Zeffirelli's 1977 classic of the life of Jesus. Rent it from Blockbuster or LOVE FiLM. Alternatively you could watch The Miracles of Jesus DVD - available from Bible Society (www.biblesociety.org.uk)

03 Other Resources

Maybe you would like to invest some time this week in some other resources to help you to re-focus on the life of Christ.

Recommended Reading:

The Jesus I Never Knew - Philip Yancey
Meet the Real Jesus - John Blanchard
Who Was Jesus - NT Wright

Or you could check out www.rejesus.co.uk

'No man ever loved like Jesus. He taught the blind to see and the dumb to speak. He died on the cross to save us. He bore our sins. And now God says, "Because He died, I can forgive you."'

Billy Graham

Don't Forget

1. To record your experience of the challenge so that you can accurately share it with your lyfe group when you next meet. You might like to text/tweet each other throughout the experience!
2. Consider posting your created challenge on the lyfe facebook site for others to view.

More resources on 'Word Lyfe'

- Listen to video interview with Andy Croft and Dallas Willard
- Read article on 'Mission in a Multi-Cultural and Multi-Faith Society'
- Read 'lyfe story' biographies on Billy Graham and John Wesley

GROUP PRAYER:

You might like to commit to praying for each person in the group this week as you look to get to know the Saviour better this week.