



*College Group Discussion Guide*



## PREPARATION

### ❑ STUDY

Spend the week studying Colossians 1:24–2:5.

### ❑ LANDING POINT

Christ's presence in me empowers me.



## INTRODUCTION

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

## A MYSTERY REVEALED

Don't you love a good storyteller? Whether it's around the campfire or the watercooler, we appreciate someone who can tell a story that grabs our attention and holds it. Chances are, you can think of a few good storytellers in your life. Maybe it's your grandfather, one of your professors or a roommate. Whoever it is, their stories keep you on the edge of your seat. They include intriguing characters, elements of mystery, unexpected twists and turns and plenty of drama, tension or comedy.

We are hardwired for story. That's the way God made us, and He reveals Himself to us through story. This week your group will look at a passage in Colossians about the mystery story that God had been telling for thousands of years through His people, the nation of Israel. God promised to send them a savior to deliver people from their sins, give them new life and bring them back into a relationship with Him. For generations, this deliverer remained hidden until He was finally revealed in God's own Son, Jesus.



## HOPE IN THE GOSPEL

Jesus is the mystery of God's story revealed to us. Through the gospel story, we see more clearly what God was up to in His plan of redemption. God Himself, in the person of Jesus, would live in believers, and His presence would empower believers to live the life God intended for them. This is the glorious hope of the gospel: that God dwells not in a temple, but in the hearts of believers to encourage and grow their faith in Him.

## POWER IN THE GOSPEL

Christ's presence in you empowers you. His presence makes you see and react to your life and relationships in a different way. Based on this week's passage, let's highlight four ways Christ empowers you.

- *Empowered to handle hardship.* Paul suffered much for Jesus, and he could handle hardship because Jesus's strength was working in and through him. The same Spirit that empowered Jesus to endure the cross lives in you and helps you in all circumstances.
- *Empowered to share and care.* Paul had a mission: to make the gospel known to all. Paul shared his faith and cared for others, so they grew spiritually. Jesus empowers you and calls you to share your faith and care for others.
- *Empowered to discern.* True faith is a belief that Christ alone is enough for salvation. It's never Christ plus something else. Jesus empowers you with the ability to discern God's truth from error, which is needed in a culture where false teachers and gospels still exist, like they did in Paul's day.
- *Empowered to stand firm.* Paul wanted the Colossians to stand firm in their faith through the peaks and valleys of life. Christ is at work in you to encourage and discipline you to a stronger, more robust faith in Him. His love for you is constant and doesn't rise or fall because of anything you do. Jesus promises to be present with you, whether your faith in Him is thriving or weak.



## QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions as a group. Remember to be respectful by not talking down to or over others.

**Q:** Describe someone you know who is a good storyteller. What makes them a good storyteller?

**READ:** Colossians 1:24-2:5. What motivated Paul to rejoice in his sufferings?

**Q:** How would you live differently if you saw your primary mission in life to make the gospel known to all? How would that change your decisions, priorities, etc.?

**Q:** Why do people want to add something to the gospel instead of seeing it as a gift?

**Q:** What's one thing you can do this week to access God's truth?

**Q:** What makes it challenging to stand firm in your faith on campus or in the workplace?

**Q:** Where in your life do you need stronger faith? Is there anything holding you back?

End in prayer.