

BLOODLINES: Week 3 – Family First

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

We learn in II Corinthians 5:17, that if anyone is in Christ they are a new creation, the old things have passed away, and new things have come. Because believers have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, Paul appeals to the Colossians in chapter 3 to live their life in a manner pleasing to the Lord. He encourages them to eliminate old sinful behaviors and set their minds on the things above.

Tell the story – Colossians 3:1-9 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[God can bring transformation to anyone's life; I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Jesus Christ now lives in me (Galatians 2:20); God's ways are much higher than my ways (Isaiah 55:9); God gives believers the indescribable gift of eternal life in heaven (John 3:16); the consequences of sin is death (Romans 6:23); God makes us new creations in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17); God calls me to abide in my personal relationship with Him; etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I get distracted by the things of this world that prevent me from living fully surrendered to the Lord's leadership; when I am not in control of a situation, I can respond in anger; I need to realize that the Lord is ultimately in control; I can hold grudges towards those who have hurt me in the past; I can grow envious of the possessions of others, and desire them more than I desire Christ; I can even make an idol out of a good thing in my life; etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other questions specific to this passage:

1. Look at the list of sinful desires in verses 5 and 8. Very practically, what would it mean to put these things to death or put them all away?
2. If your walk with the Lord has stalled or plateaued, what should your game plan be?

Assign next week's passage – Colossians 3:10-15 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

BLOODLINES: Week 3 – Leadership Coaching

The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.

Leading *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

A relational environment is vital to a successful Grow Group. A relational environment is one that fosters a sharing of our highs and lows as we seek to build one another up in Christ. Mutual accountability can be one of the hardest traits for our leaders. We intentionally refer to our Grow Group leaders as facilitators because we recognize that we are the same as everyone else in the group, sinners seeking guidance on loving and obeying Jesus. As a facilitator, model for your group what it means to share your struggles. Don't be afraid to lead out as this provides permission for the rest of the group to do the same.

Shepherding *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

Share a meal with a member of your group outside of group time this week. Invite one of the people in your Grow Group to meet you for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Spend time getting to know that person. Be curious and then listen. Ask about their family, their work, and their dreams for the coming year. Ask, "How is your walk with God?" At the end of the meal, pray and thank God for them and for your time together.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

One of the greatest struggles for American Christianity is our ability to compartmentalize our faith, believing our life outside the church is separate from the faith we profess inside the church. The church of Laodicea received a strong warning from Jesus in the book of Revelation for this compartmentalized or lukewarm faith. Similar to the church of Laodicea, when we look at our lives from a global perspective we can claim that "I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing." (Rev 3:17) Unchecked, our affluence leads us to see the work of our hands rather than our abiding relationship with Christ as the source of our provision. This results in a compartmentalized faith that declares "I can handle this", unaware we are sacrificing the power of God who can transform lives through us.

As you reflect upon Revelation 3:14-22 ask yourself the following:

Do I give God leadership over all areas of my life or do I have areas that are off limits?

Would people from different parts of your life (work, family, neighbors) be able to say the same thing about your character and faith?