

AN INVITATION TO A JOURNEY



SMALL GROUP GUIDE



HOW DID IT GO?

Did you...

- envision how losing your life for Jesus might help you to find your life?
- ask God to help you internalize how you are “in Christ” and “have been raised with Christ”?
- work and pray toward becoming more compassionate and kind?
- help an elderly or disabled neighbor with a physically difficult chore?
- extend kindness to someone in your own small group?
- sit with a grieving friend?
- put this passage into practice some other way?
- become a Houston Welcomes Refugees Partner?

OCTOBER 3

SERMON TITLE:

Humility & Honesty

SCRIPTURE:

Colossians 3:1-2, 9-17
Mark 9:33-35

Scripture Passages

Colossians 3:1-2 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Colossians 3:9-17 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Mark 9:33-35 They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” 34 But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. 35 Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

HEAD [15-20 MINUTES]

Read aloud the passages for this week.

1. Against what actions does Paul's letter admonish the church at Colossae?
2. In whose name and in what spirit are they (and we) exhorted to do everything?
3. What do we learn from Jesus in the gospel passage? How does it relate to the Colossians passage?

HEART [15-20 MINUTES]

1. Why is thinking less of ourselves and our own benefit, and being more humble and servant-like, so difficult?
2. Discipleship has multiple components. What major ones does this passage speak of?
3. Consider Benjamin Franklin's comment on the virtue of humility from famous autobiography: "My list of virtues contain'd at first but twelve; but a Quaker friend having kindly informed me that I was generally thought proud; that my pride show'd itself frequently in conversation; that I was not content with being in the right when discussing any point, but was overbearing, and rather insolent, of which he convinc'd me by mentioning several instances... I added Humility to my list...I cannot boast of much success in acquiring the reality of this virtue, but I had a good deal with regard to the appearance of it..."
 - a. Would those closest to you say you possess the virtue of humility? Why or why not?
 - b. Benjamin Franklin tried to achieve humility by his own strength, and in his own words only "appeared" to have it. How can we, in Christ, actually begin to acquire the reality of being humble?

HANDS [10 MINUTES]

Reaching Upward: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- This week meditate on Christ's humility in Philippians 2:8.
- Pray for greater submission to the Holy Spirit to form you into Christ-likeness.

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- What would living out Colossians 3:11 look like with respect to the people you interact with every day? Remember to treat everyone as though Christ is all, and in all.
- Think about a time when a Christian cautioned you humbly and honestly in a Christ-like way. If you see a need to speak a hard truth to someone you love, remember to do so with humility. Remember the point of doing this is not to "be in the right" but to encourage someone to have greater intimacy with their creator, of which sin and pride do not allow.
- If God presents someone who needs help, which you can provide, humbly do so.

Reaching Beyond

- Any other way God is stirring you to put this passage into practice?

➤ Head

Observe the text and the author's main points.

➤ Heart

Envision how the text—when applied—might transform your inner life in terms of your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.

➤ Hands

Apply the text by moving from inward reflection to outward action looking for practical ways to live the text out in our lives to serve others.

➤ Neighbor

Anyone in your life—whether a friend, colleague, family member, classmate, or literal neighbor—to whom you can show God's love.

