

AN INVITATION TO A JOURNEY



SMALL GROUP GUIDE



HOW DID IT GO?

Did you...

- ask God to show you where you need to grow?
- create a chart of your personal desires and separate those that make you more like Christ and those that do not?
- meditate on The Message version of Matthew 24-28?
- have conversations with friends and neighbors, learn what tends to weigh them down, and find ways to support and encourage them?
- identify something in your life you need to crucify? Something you need to deny because it is not of God?
- feel stirred by God to put this passage into action some other way?

Scripture Passages

Colossians 3:1-2 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Colossians 3:12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

Luke 7:11-15 Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. 12 As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." 14 Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" 15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

HEAD (15-20 MINUTES)

Read aloud the passages for this week.

1. In Chapter 2 of Colossians Paul says we died with Christ, and in chapter 3 he says we have been raised with Christ. Given these truths, what does Paul say should happen with our hearts and minds?
2. What attributes should we "put on"?
3. What does Luke tell us about the circumstances, people present, and place where Jesus raised the widow's son (Luke 7:11-13)?

SEPTEMBER 26

SERMON TITLE:

Compassion and Kindness

SCRIPTURE:

Colossians 3:1-2, 12
Luke 7:11-15

► Head

Observe the text and the author's main points.

HEART [15-20 MINUTES]

In the Colossians verses Paul encourages us to not focus on earthly things, In saying this he wants us to realize something that we may not believe or understand - that our earthly nature has died and we have been raised with Christ.

1. What strength enables us to set our hearts and minds “on things above”?
2. How can we exercise that strength?
3. Is there anything in the Luke passage that stirred your heart? Gave you a new/renewed image of Jesus? How does that affect they way you want to “follow in his footsteps”?

HANDS [10 MINUTES]

Reaching Upward: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Envision how losing your life for Jesus might help you to find your life. Spend some time in prayer and journaling about this.
- Ask God to help you internalize—understand and truly believe—you are “in Christ” and “have been raised with Christ.”
- How does this reality impact your relationship with other people? In particular, how can this understanding make you more compassionate and kind?

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

Put on then...compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

- Help an elderly or disabled neighbor with a physically difficult chore—such as taking out the large trash bin, mowing their lawn, or picking up their groceries.
- Is there someone in your small group who could use a meal? A letter? A phone call? Consider reaching out to someone in your own community. Christ says they will know us by our love for one another...
- Sit with a grieving friend.
- Become a *Houston Welcomes Refugees* Partner: Upcoming Online Orientations**

Click the RSVP button at houstonwelcomesrefugees.com/orientation, where you will see the upcoming orientation dates: Sept 27, Oct 4, Oct 18. They are one hour, online, interesting, and informative. In order to help with a move-in team (prepping an apartment before a family arrives) or assemble welcome kits, or join a welcome team (walking alongside a family with a group of others), this training is required.

Reaching Beyond

Is there any other way God is stirring you to put this passage into practice?

➤ 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.

