



Opening Prayer

God, thanks for allowing us to gather here today as friends. I pray that our time would encourage each one here. May we become better friends, better followers of Jesus, and more committed to your mission because of this investment of time. We love you, and we're excited to hear from you. We declare this is your space and we are eager to respond to your leading today. Amen.

Icebreaker

Q1: If you could cause the world to live in perfect harmony in just one environment, which of the following would you choose and why?

- » The freeways
- » Social media
- » The news media
- » The kitchen table

The mission statement of our church network is "people helping people find and follow Jesus." This week, we're going to talk about the power of unity, and what happens when we collectively live out this mission.

Q2: Give an example of when you have been on a team or a work group and you accomplished something significant. What was that like and what made that experience enjoyable or difficult?

PLAY WEEK 3 VIDEO

Talk it Over

Kingdom of God waves are evident when God's church is united in pursuit of his mission. When we work together toward the same goal, it does something powerful in us. Our unity is our greatest testimony to the work of God in us.

Read Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

Leader Instructions: Invite others in the group to read the Bible verses during your weekly study using their participant's guide or Bible.

Q3: Share some stories of faith from your life, this group, a friend or our church network which you have recently found encouragement in. What Kingdom of God ripples have you seen?

Read Colossians 2:6-10 (NLT)

Leader Instructions: Invite others in the group to read the Bible verses during your weekly study using their participant's guide or Bible.

Q4: What stood out to you most in this passage?

Q5: Using the imagery of this text, what is keeping you rooted in Jesus currently? What spiritual practice or pattern in your life is helping you stay most connected to Jesus? (For example: A growth group, weekly worship service, Bible reading and prayer, silence, etc.)

James mentioned the Kingdom of God waves we have been making during the past year through our

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LEADER GUIDE

WEEK THREE

BE UNITED WITH US



Cannonball Generosity Initiative. United in one mission, we are creating ripples of positive impact throughout our communities by helping people find and follow Jesus. Our God-sized dreams are being fulfilled, but as James mentioned, there are spiritual forces at work around us working against our unity with God and one another.

Q6: Based on Colossians 2:6-10, what are these spiritual forces and how have such forces influenced our everyday lives?

Q7: What are some modern-day “empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense” that tend to capture your attention or that you’ve believed in the past?”

The second thing that we heard James highlight from this text is that our unity is rooted in the fact that we are one in Jesus.

Q8: What does the phrase “you also are complete through your union with Christ” mean for you and how does it change the way we interact with God and others?

Q9: How do you remain confident that God loves you unconditionally, even as you are challenged by the “spiritual powers” around you? What areas in your life can we pray for?

Closing Prayer

Leader Instructions: Feel free to lead this week’s closing prayer using the prompt below or praying your own prayer for the group. You can also ask your group if someone would like to share a quick, simple closing prayer.

God, help us to live connected to you this week. We long to be united with you in all we do and we pray that this week, we might make moves toward being content in Jesus and also toward becoming more like him in how we live. May your Holy Spirit be our constant guide. Amen.

Closing Reminders For Our Group

- » Let’s each commit now to attending the remaining weeks of Ripple Effect.
- » Let’s each commit now to praying for one another and the part Jesus wants us to play in his Kingdom work.
- » Let’s continue to read through Colossians every week.
- » Let’s memorize the theme verse for this series (Colossians 1:6).
- » As a group, let’s make sure we have all our group logistics squared away for next week (i.e. schedule, meeting location, child care details, snack rotation, etc.)