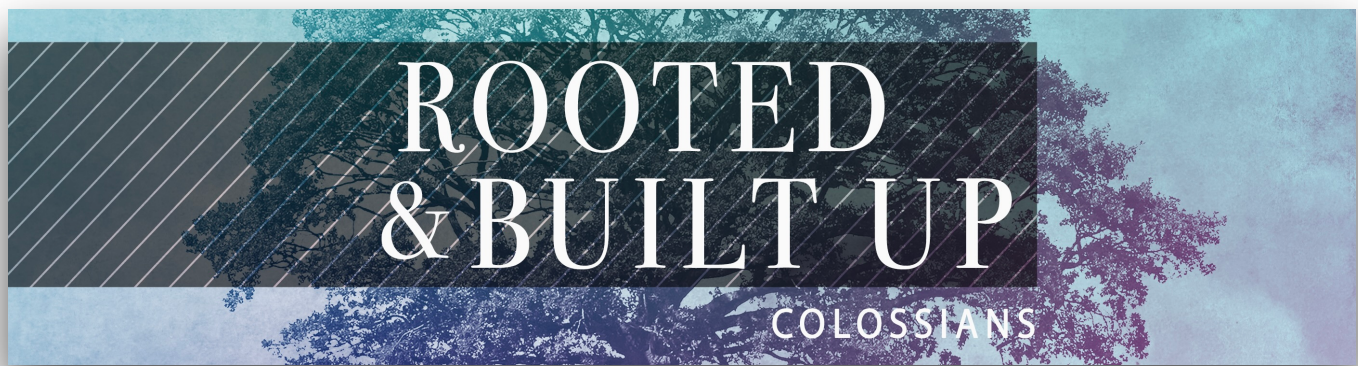




Small Group Guide: "He Is" - The Supremacy of Christ

Based on Colossians 1:15-18

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when something you invested heavily in (a relationship, career goal, or dream) suddenly came to an end. How did that experience shape you?

Key Sermon Themes

1. Jesus is the exact image of the invisible God (v. 15)
2. Jesus is the creator and sustainer of all things (v. 16-17)
3. Jesus is the head of the church and firstborn from the dead (v. 18)
4. Jesus is the only way to truly know God

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Understanding Who Jesus Is

1. The sermon began with Lindsey Vonn's Olympic crash as an illustration of how things we build our identity on can suddenly unravel. What are some things in our culture (or in your own life) that people commonly build their identity on? Why are these foundations so fragile?

2. Read Colossians 1:15 together. What does it mean that Jesus is "the image of the invisible God"? How is this different from saying Jesus is just a good teacher or prophet?
3. The pastor emphasized that "if you claim to know God but don't know Jesus, you do not know God." How does this statement challenge popular beliefs about spirituality and religion today?

Part 2: Jesus as Creator and Sustainer

4. Read Colossians 1:16-17. Paul lists "thrones, dominions, rulers, and authorities" as things created by and for Jesus. What does this tell us about Jesus's authority over:
 - Political powers?
 - Spiritual forces?
 - Natural laws (sickness, disease, death)?
5. The sermon stated that "all things hold together" in Jesus. What areas of your life feel like they're falling apart right now? How does this truth about Jesus speak to those situations?
6. Verse 16 says all things were created "for him." What does it mean that everything exists for Jesus's purposes rather than our own? How should this reshape our daily priorities?

Part 3: Jesus as Head of the Church

7. Read Colossians 1:18. Paul uses the metaphor of Jesus as the "head" and the church as the "body." What happens to a body without a head? What does this tell us about trying to live the Christian life apart from Jesus?
8. The pastor mentioned that Jesus "stepped off his throne" and "submitted himself to the temporal flesh." Spend some time reflecting on what Jesus gave up to become human. How does this impact your understanding of God's love for you?

Part 4: Personal Application

9. The sermon asked: "Would you rather look at Jesus for the God that you need or look to your mind for the God that you want?" Be honest—in what ways are you tempted to create a version of God that serves you rather than surrendering to who Jesus actually is?
10. Read John 15:5 - "I am the vine, you are the branches. Apart from me you can do nothing." What activities or goals are you currently pursuing in your own strength rather than depending on Jesus?

Key Takeaways

✓ **Jesus is not just a part of God—He IS God in the flesh**

- ✓ Everything we need to know about God is revealed in Jesus
- ✓ Jesus has authority over every circumstance we face—cancer, relationships, finances, death itself
- ✓ We can only truly know God through knowing Jesus
- ✓ Jesus is the King who will never be dethroned—He is our only secure foundation

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Daily Scripture Meditation

- Spend 10 minutes each day reading and meditating on Colossians 1:15-20
- Journal about one new thing you discover about Jesus each day
- Share your discoveries with the group next week

Option 2: Identity Audit

- Make a list of things you've been building your identity on (career, relationships, achievements, appearance, etc.)
- Prayerfully surrender each one to Jesus
- Write out a statement declaring that your identity is found in Christ alone

Option 3: Worship Through Surrender

- Identify one area where you've been trying to be "king" of your own life
- Write a prayer of surrender, acknowledging Jesus as King over that specific area
- Share your commitment with one trusted person who can pray for and encourage you

Option 4: Share Jesus

- Think of one person in your life who doesn't know Jesus
- Pray daily for them this week
- Look for an opportunity to share how knowing Jesus has changed your understanding of who God is

Memory Verse

Colossians 1:17 - "And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

Closing Reflection

Before you close in prayer, take a few moments of silence to consider:

- What is one truth about Jesus from this passage that you need to cling to this week?
- What is one area of your life that you need to surrender to Jesus as King?
- How has this discussion changed your view of who Jesus is?

Closing Prayer

Pray together as a group, focusing on:

- **Worship** - Praising Jesus for who He is (creator, sustainer, King)
- **Confession** - Admitting areas where we've looked elsewhere instead of to Jesus
- **Surrender** - Yielding control of specific situations to Jesus
- **Petition** - Asking God to help us truly know Jesus more deeply