Colossians

Lesson 1: Christ's Connection to God... He's Him

**Lessons in this series:** **1**[2](http://www.teensundayschool.com/78/lesson/our-connection-to-christ.php) [3](http://www.teensundayschool.com/92/lesson/our-connection-to-the-world.php) [4](http://www.teensundayschool.com/100/lesson/our-connection-to-each-other.php)

LESSON OBJECTIVES
Goals

1. For students to become familiar with Colossians 1
2. For students to understand that Jesus is God
3. For students to give their lives to God through Christ

Topics

Character of God, Holiness, Jesus, Knowing Jesus

Scripture Memorization

Colossians 1:15

OPENING PRAYER (5 to 10 minutes)

GETTING STARTED (10 minutes)

Go ahead and open up to the book of Colossians. It’s between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians in the New Testament. Let me give you some quick info before we dive in. This info is also in your workbooks.

**Background on Colossians**

* Written by the Apostle Paul
* Along with Ephesians, Philippians, & others, a Prison Letter
* Written in about 60 AD
* Written from Rome where Paul was under house arrest
* Written to correct false teaching in the church
* Colossae the city was in Asia Minor, now Turkey
* Paul had never personally been to Colossae

As we approach Colossians, it’s important to remember the “why” of Paul’s writing. Colossae, like a lot of churches, struggled to remember what the faith was really all about. As we study, what we learn is just as useful today as it was back then.  Let me tell you the four connections we’re going to discover in the pages of this book, and then we’ll get into the first one this week.

Christ’s Connection to God (He’s Him)
Our Connection to Christ/God
Our Connection to This World
Our Connection to Each Other

DIGGING IN (30 minutes)

This week, we’re going to take a look at Colossians 1:1-23, and discover that this whole letter leans on one indisputable fact: Jesus Christ is God in the flesh.

So let’s all turn to Colossians 1. What we’re going to do is read the whole thing and then go back and pick it apart a little bit.

 **Read Colossians 1:1-23** *(Have someone read the entire passage, or have a few people take turns reading)*

Okay, there’s a lot of stuff in there, and there’s no way we can get into all of it. We really want to hone in on verses 15-23, but before we do that, what sticks out to you in the first 14 verses? Let's read it again.

**Read Colossians 1:1-14 again**
**Discussion Questions**
1. Who is writing this book? *(Paul & Timothy)*2. How do you sense the authors feel about the Colossians? *(Allow for discussion)*3. In the first 7 verses, how many times do the authors reference Christ? *(There are 5 in the NIV)*

Believe it or not, Paul uses the word “Christ” 27 times in this short book. There is no doubt that Christ is the central figure here, and the foundation of everything Paul writes. The next chunk of Scripture, verses 15-23, define who Paul believes Christ to be. Let’s read those verses again.

 **Read Colossians 1:15-23 again**

**Discussion Questions**
1. According to those verses, what are some things that the authors claim Jesus is?
2. According to those verses, what are some things that the authors claim Jesus does?

Jesus is the image of God, firstborn of everything, before everything, head of the Church, the beginning, firstborn from among the dead, supreme. Jesus created everything, holds all things together, reconciles all things, and makes peace.

Do you guys understand the full implication of what we just read? When we say Jesus is God, we are saying that He created everything. He not only created it, but He holds it together. He invented weather patterns, tectonic plates, and human emotions. They are subject to His authority. Nothing happens unless He gives the okay.

3. How does that match up with what you usually think about Jesus?
4. Is there anything in those verses that you’ve never thought of before, or causes you to think differently?

*(Use this time to allow them to explore the things they’ve discovered again. Feel free to ask follow-ups like “How does it feel to know Jesus holds everything together right now?” or “What does it mean to you to know Jesus as the image of God?”, etc.)*

The deity (or God-ness) of Jesus has been an idea that has been argued about since He stepped foot on the earth. Can you name some religions that don’t believe Jesus was God? *(Mormons, Muslims, Hindus, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Judaism)*

The point is, Christians are unique in that idea. But Paul presents his case clearly here.

5. Can you pick apart this passage and make an argument that Jesus was/is NOT God, based on what He isn’t and what He doesn’t do?

As we talk about connections, the number one connection that Paul sets forth is the connection between Jesus and God: they are one in the same. The question then becomes, what difference does it make?

 **Read Colossians 1:21-23 again**

Let’s look at one parallel text that you probably know and then I have 3 questions to ask of you.

 **Read Philippians 2:5-11**

**Discussion Questions**1. What was Jesus’ reaction to His deity? *(Php. 2:6) (Jesus did not consider equality with God something to be grasped)*2. What was Paul’s reaction? *(Col. 1:23b) (That he is a servant of Christ)*3. What should your reaction be? *(Allow for discussion)*

The fact that Jesus is God doesn’t matter unless it takes root in our hearts. In verse 23, Paul says that it is this Gospel message that has caused him to submit himself to Christ’s service. Is that true of you?

MAKING IT REAL (10 minutes)

**Discussion Questions**
1. What are some things that people spend their lives devoting their time and energy to? *(jobs, raising family, etc.)*2. What do you spend your time doing? *(school, sports, church activities, friends, etc.)*

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| ActivityGive each student 16 pennies or, if nothing else, 16 squares of toilet paper. It’s not as important what the 16 is, but they get something in the number of 16.Start with the assumption that everyone spends 8 hours each day sleeping. This is about average for teenagers. The challenge in this activity is not to question those 8 hours, but the other 16 hours they get each day.Ask students what they spend their time doing. Chances are they spend quite a bit of time at school. For each hour they spend doing something, have them set one penny/square of toilet paper/whatever aside.Go through the possibilities: school, sports, clubs, homework, computer, video games, etc. When you think you’ve exhausted the possibilities, ask them what else they might spend time doing. For each hour they spend doing something, have them set one unit aside. Do your best to round up and combine activities to set whole units of coin or toilet paper aside. Go through the whole day and see what’s left. Then ask the following questions…**Discussion Questions**1. Whether or not those things are good is not the question. The question is, are they Godly?2. How much time did each of you say you spent each day spending time in prayer, or in Bible study, or serving others?3. How can you change your habits to spend more time connecting with Christ?  |

When you think about your life, the foundation of everything you do should be rooted in the fact that Jesus is God. It’s not so important that you set an hour aside for prayer and Bible reading, although that is good, but rather that every waking hour you have is influenced by your relationship with Jesus. If Jesus is God, we should be connected to Him, which is what we’ll be talking about next week.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)