



Discussion Questions for the week of January 10th

BIG IDEA: It's a new year and a new Wake. We're looking for new insights for our lives from the Scriptures of old. We want to look to God's Word to see what He calls the church to live out.

OVERVIEW: Paul wrote a letter to the church at Colossae, a real place, with real people, at a specific time in History. That letter, which is now the book of Colossians, is not just for them, but for the Church today. God wants to use you, Wake, Jr High students at Watermark Community Church – a real place, with real people, at a specific time in History, for a specific purpose to influence the world around you for Christ.

ICE BREAKER:

What is your new year's resolution for 2018?

DISCUSSION:

1. In this past Holiday season did your family receive an abundance of mail? Was it mainly Christmas cards or did you personally receive any mail? – If no, when was the last time you received a letter?
2. When you read the Bible, do you see it as God's letter to you? Why or why not?
3. Read Colossians 1:1-5, just in these opening lines of the letter what do we now know about the author and the letter's intent?
4. The letter to the church at Colossae was written some thousand years ago, is this letter relevant to us today? Do you believe that Scripture is relevant for your life today? Why or why not?
5. Leaders, as you see appropriate for your group, read through Colossians in some way again. Maybe you break them out in the room to read on their own quietly for 15min or so, maybe you have them read through it all again aloud, or you can be creative as to how you refresh your kids of Colossians.
6. Read Col 1:15-20. As we look at Scripture, our goal should be to gain more of who God is and then in turn know who we are as God's beloved. On a piece of paper (or back of this sheet) draw a T and on one side have your kids list out attributes of Christ.
7. Then on the other side of the T write attributes of us. Then read just vs 21 and ask your kids to pick out our attributes. (They're not great.) Would they add anything to the list, or would they say this is true of us? Why or why not?
8. Then ask a kid to read vs 22 and cross out the bad attributes of us. Write the "How God sees us" and then write the words given for our status in vs 22.
9. The message of vs 22 is cross referenced in 2 Corinthians 5:19-21, what is the "message & ministry" of reconciliation? Do you believe that is your message and ministry to share? Why or why not?
10. If verse 22 is true about us and we have been entrusted with such a message and ministry, then how are we to live? Let's read in Col 2:6 & Col 3:1-2. Is it about doing right and wrong? How do we "establish ourselves in faith"? What does my life look like if I overflow with thankfulness? How do I cultivate thankfulness? What does my thinking look like if I set my mind on the "realities of heaven" how do you practically do that/ how do you need to change to do that?
- We want to establish a frame of mind for how we receive what God has called us to as His ministers and His church as we overview the rest of Colossians in weeks to come.

APPLICATION:

11. You are the church. Your small group is a picture of God's Church, the body of Christ, to the world. What are you praying for your church (your small group), your brothers, your sisters, those you minister to?
12. Choose a verse or small passage to pray as a group for your small group, your church.
Great examples are: Col 1:9-10, 1:11-14, 2:6-7, 3:12-17