CAMPING OUT IN COLOSSIANS

A 6-WEEK SUMMER JOURNEY FOR FAMILIES

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HEY FAMILIES!

Pack your "backpacks" and gather around the "campfire." This summer your family is going on an adventure through the book of Colossians. Each week focuses on helping your family grow deeper roots in Jesus through Bible reading, discussion, prayer, and fun activities together.

PREPARE

Schedule it

Choose which days/times for the next 6 weeks you will gather with your family. It could be once a day for the daily Bible reading and once a week for a "Campfire" gathering; do what works for your family. (No, you don't need a real campfire).

Put the dates on the calendar as if they are appointments you cannot miss. Schedule 30 mins to one hour for gatherings; even if your kids only have a 5 minute attention span. Keep this time free from distractions and focused on connecting as a family.

REMEMBER: This is a guide - meant to help you, not overwhelm you. If you cannot commit to every day or a full hour - that is OKAY! Find a rhythm that works for your family. If it's 30 minutes a week - start there. Focus on building a habit that works for you.

Pick your "Campsite"

Choose a special spot in your home where your family will gather each week to read, pray, and talk together.

For extra fun, decorate the area, together, to look like a campsite for the next 6 weeks! Add blankets, lanterns, pillows, flashlights, camping chairs, stuffed animals, or a even a pretend campfire.

Pack Supplies

While not required, you may want to gather the following supplies:

- Journals or notebooks; markers or colored pencils
- Bibles for each family member
- Camping or summer-themed stickers
- Camp Trail Activity Supplies (see each week for suggested supplies)

Bonus Activity: Decorate blank journals together with camping or summer-themed stickers and supplies before you begin your study! These can be used during the **C.A.M.P. in God's Word** portion of the guide.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

Each week offers a daily Bible reading (5 days each week) plus a guided weekly gathering for the whole family. We encourage families to read together daily for 10-15 minutes and spend 30 minutes to an hour once a week to **Read the Focus Passage**, **C.A.M.P. in God's Word**, have a **Campfire Family Chat** and do the **Camp Trail Activities**. **REMEMBER: this is a guide so plan a rhythm that works for your family.** Each part is described below:

DAILY READINGS (10-15 MINS DAILY)

Each week offers daily reading prompts from the book of Colossians. We strongly encourage adults and kids who can read to follow the reading plan. There is a one page reading plan that can be hung somewhere in the house for quick reference or print one for each family member to keep track.

GATHERING FOCUS PASSAGE: (2-3 MINS)

Each weekly family gathering time should begin by reading the focus verse or passage from the weekly reading. It highlights the theme for that week.

C.A.M.P. IN GOD'S WORD (5-15 MINS)

Use the C.A.M.P. Journal prompts to respond to the focus passage for the week. This can be done individually or together if you have young children. Drawing, doodling, bullet points, short scribbles are all encouraged. The goal is to help your family build a habit of noticing and responding to what God is teaching through His Word. Check out the next page for how to use the C.A.M.P. Journal Method. It might be helpful to provide each family member a journal.

CAMPFIRE FAMILY CHAT (5-15 MINS)

Spend some time discussing journal entries and doodles or answering the questions provided. Embrace curiosity and be patient when the conversation gets off track. If your kids are young, let them play with something or wiggle around - they are still listening. The goal is connecting and building a habit of talking about what God is doing and how he guides us to live.

CAMP TRAIL ACTIVITY

Trailblazers take exciting adventures, forging new paths never before taken. As a family, use this time to be trailblazers by putting into practice what you are learning in Colossians and allowing God to guide you into new adventures with Him. Each week includes a suggested activity to help your family grow, connect, and serve together.

C.A.M.P. JOURNAL METHOD

Use the C.A.M.P. Journal Method for the Daily Readings and/or during the Family Gathering Time. The boxes below are an example of a how a journal page can be used. If this method of journaling is new for your family; walk through each section together.

C: CONNECT WITH GOD

- Use this time to be still and listen to God. Ask him to speak to you.
- You could begin with gratitude or confession of your need for Jesus.

A: APPLY THE TRUTH

- What stood out in the passage we read?
- How can we live differently because of what we read?
- How does this affect my choices or attitude?
- How can I love and serve others better?

M: MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

- What verse or word do you need to remember today?
- Why is it so meaningful?
- Pick a verse to memorize for the week.

P: PRAYER

- Confess any sins and receive God's grace and forgiveness.
- Write or pray, asking God to guide you to live differently because of what you learned today.
- Pray for others.

WEEK 18 SETTING UP CAMP

THEME: JESUS IS FIRST

DAILY READINGS (10-15 MINS DAILY)

Day 1: Colossians 1:1-8 — Faith and thankfulness

Day 2: Colossians 1:9-14 — Spiritual growth

Day 3: Colossians 1:15-20 — Jesus above everything

Day 4: Colossians 1:21-23 — Reconciled through Christ

Day 5: Colossians 1:24-29 — Sharing Jesus with others

GATHERING FOCUS: COLOSSIANS 1:15-17 (2-3 MINS)

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, And by him all things hold together.

***C.A.M.P.* IN GOD'S WORD: JOURNAL OR DOODLE (5-15 MINS)**

(USE THE QUESTION PROMPTS FROM THE DESCRIPTION PAGE)

C-Connect With God

A-Apply the Truth

M-Memorize

P-Pray

***CAMPFIRE FAMILY CHAT* (5-15 MINS)**

- What makes Jesus different from anyone else?
- What does it mean to put Jesus first?
- What are some things that can distract us from putting Jesus first?
- How can our family grow closer to Jesus this summer?

CAMP TRAIL FAMILY ACTIVITY (CHOOSE ANY OR ALL)

- Make homemade trail mix and deliver it to neighbors with a kind note.
- Go for a nature walk and name all the things God created, then talk about how Jesus holds all things together.
- Make a "Jesus First" sign or banner to decorate your "campsite."

Suggested Supplies: Trail Mix ingredients, bags and tags for packaging; poster paper and markers

WEEK 2: GROWING DEEP ROOTS

THEME: ROOTED IN CHRIST

DAILY READINGS (10-15 MINS DAILY)

Day 1: Colossians 2:1-5 — United in love

Day 2: Colossians 2:6-10 — Rooted and built up in Christ

Day 3: Colossians 2:11-15 — New life through Jesus

Day 4: Colossians 2:16-19 — Keeping our focus on Christ

Day 5: Colossians 2:20-23 — Heart transformation

GATHERING FOCUS: COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 (2-3 MINS)

6 So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, 7 being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude.

***C.A.M.P.* IN GOD'S WORD: JOURNAL OR DOODLE (5-15 MINS)**

(USE THE QUESTION PROMPTS FROM THE DESCRIPTION PAGE)

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M-Memorize

P-Pray

***CAMPFIRE FAMILY CHAT* (5-15 MINS)**

- What helps plants grow strong roots?
- How can people have strong roots of faith?
- How do we receive Jesus Christ as Lord for Salvation?
- Name ways we can encourage each other to stay connected to Jesus.

CAMP TRAIL FAMILY ACTIVITY (CHOOSE ANY OR ALL)

- **Root Hunt Adventure:** Go outside and look for roots -from trees, plants, or flowers. Talk about how roots help plants stay strong and healthy and the importance of faith roots.
- Plant seeds or flowers together as a reminder to stay rooted in Christ.
- Take flowers and cards to widows, shuts-ins or nursing home residents.

Suggested Supplies: a packet of flower or veggie seeds, pots and soil; store bought flowers and materials to make cards.

WEEK 3: CAMPFIRE CHARACTER

THEME: MADE NEW IN JESUS

DAILY READINGS (10-15 MINS DAILY)

Day 1: Colossians 3:1-4 — Set your minds on things above
Day 2: Colossians 3:5-11 — Leaving old habits behind
Day 3: Colossians 3:12-14 — Putting on kindness and love
Day 4: Colossians 3:15-17 — Living with gratitude
Day 5: Colossians 3:18-21 — Honoring God in our families

GATHERING FOCUS: COLOSSIANS 3:12-15 (2-3 MINS)

12 Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.
14 Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful.

***C.A.M.P.* IN GOD'S WORD: JOURNAL OR DOODLE (5-15 MINS)**

(USE THE QUESTION PROMPTS FROM THE DESCRIPTION PAGE)

C-Connect With God
A-Apply the Truth
M-Memorize
P-Pray

***CAMPFIRE FAMILY CHAT* (5-15 MINS)**

- What is your favorite part about being in our family?
- Why is forgiveness important?
- How do people make you feel loved and cared for?
- How do you know God cares for you?

CAMP TRAIL FAMILY ACTIVITY (CHOOSE ANY OR ALL)

- **Family Kindness Challenge:** Put the names of everyone in your family in a hat. Each person chooses a name and for the next week showers him/her with kind acts, sweet notes and little gifts.
- Gather gently used toys and clothing and donate them to bless others.

Suggested Supplies: hat or bowl, paper for names; boxes for donation items

WEEK 48 TRAIL GUIDES FOR JESUS

THEME: SERVING GOD DAILY

DAILY READINGS (10-15 MINS DAILY)

Day 1: Colossians 3:22-25 — Working for the Lord

Day 2: Colossians 4:1-6 — Prayer and wise words

Day 3: Colossians 4:7-9 — Encouraging friendships

Day 4: Colossians 4:10-14 — Everyone has a purpose

Day 5: Colossians 4:15-18 — Staying faithful

GATHERING FOCUS: READ: COLOSSIANS 3:23-24 (2-3 MINS)

23 Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, 24 knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.

***C.A.M.P.* IN GOD'S WORD: JOURNAL OR DOODLE (5-15 MINS)**

(USE THE QUESTION PROMPTS FROM THE DESCRIPTION PAGE)

C-Connect With God

A-Apply the Truth

M-Memorize

P-Pray

***CAMPFIRE FAMILY CHAT* (5-15 MINS)**

- Why does serving others matter?
- How can chores and responsibilities honor God?
- What spiritual gifts has God given our family members?
- Share about a time you served God.

CAMP TRAIL FAMILY ACTIVITY (CHOOSE ANY OR ALL)

- **Trail Guide Air Race: (Need paper for airplanes)**
  - Fold paper airplanes together as a group.
  - Head outside (or inside) and choose a target in the distance.
  - Everyone stands at the same starting line and throws their airplane toward the target.
  - After each throw, players walk to wherever their airplane landed and throw again from that new spot.
  - Continue following your airplane's path until you reach the target.
  - Encourage one another along the way as everyone "blazes their own trail" to the same destination.
- **Reflection:** Even though each airplane takes a different path, everyone is focused on the same goal - to be more like Jesus. In the same way, our journeys with God may look different, but He guides each of us toward the same purpose and relationship with Him.

WEEK 58 FAITH IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

THEME: LIVING WHAT YOU LEARNED

DAILY READINGS REVIEW FOCUS PASSAGES (10-15 MINS DAILY)

Day 1: Colossians 1:15-17 - Jesus is first

Day 2: Colossians 2:6-7 - Rooted in Christ

Day 3: Colossians 3:12-15 - Made new in Jesus

Day 4: Colossians 3:23-24 - Serving God daily

Day 5: Colossians 3:17 - Living what you learned

GATHERING FOCUS: COLOSSIANS 3:17 (2-3 MINS)

17 And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

***C.A.M.P.* IN GOD'S WORD: JOURNAL OR DOODLE (5-15 MINS)**

(USE THE QUESTION PROMPTS FROM THE DESCRIPTION PAGE)

C-Connect With God

A-Apply the Truth

M-Memorize

P-Pray

***CAMPFIRE FAMILY CHAT* (5-15 MINS)**

- Name a way you have trusted God in a difficult or scary time.
- What was your favorite highlight passage in Colossians?
- Name a way we have lived out what we have learned so far.
- What is your favorite outdoor activity to do?

CAMP TRAIL FAMILY ACTIVITY (CHOOSE ANY OR ALL)

- Go for a glow stick nighttime prayer walk and pray for neighbors.
- Lay in the yard or an open space and look at cloud shapes then thank God for His creation.
- **Silly Storytelling** - One person begins a silly story with a single sentence, then passes it to the next person to continue. Each participant adds a fun or goofy detail until everyone has contributed and the group has created one hilarious story together.

Suggested Supplies: Glow sticks

WEEK 6: THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES

THEME: FOLLOWING JESUS BEYOND SUMMER

DAILY READINGS (10-15 MINS DAILY)

Day 1: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 — Faith in everyday life

Day 2: Psalm 1:1-3 — Growing like a strong tree

Day 3: John 15:1-8 — Abiding in Jesus

Day 4: Philippians 4:4-9 — Peace and joy in Christ

Day 5: Colossians 2:6-7 — Rooted and built up in Him

GATHERING FOCUS: READ: JOHN 15:5-8 (2-3 MINS)

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in
him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. 6 If
anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he
withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7
If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want
and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this: that you
produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

***C.A.M.P.* IN GOD'S WORD: JOURNAL OR DOODLE (5-15 MINS)**

(USE THE QUESTION PROMPTS FROM THE DESCRIPTION PAGE)

C -Connect With God
A-Apply the Truth
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***CAMPFIRE FAMILY CHAT* (5-15 MINS)**

- What has been your favorite part of this study?
- What has God been teaching our family?
- How has our family grown together?
- What should we continue doing after summer ends?

CAMP TRAIL FAMILY ACTIVITY (CHOOSE ANY OR ALL)

- **Backyard or Living Room Camp Out Night** - Have a simple backyard camp out, picnic, or campfire night together with worship, prayer, and favorite memories from the study.
- Cook s'mores over the fire or make indoor s'mores.

Suggested Supplies: camping gear, S'mores ingredients

WEEK 1: SETTING UP CAMP

- [ ] Day 1: Colossians 1:1-8
  Faith and thankfulness
- [ ] Day 2: Colossians 1:9-14
  Spiritual Growth
- [ ] Day 3: Colossians 1:15-20
  Jesus above everything
- [ ] Day 4: Colossians 1:21-23
  Reconciled through Christ
- [ ] Day 5: Colossians 1:24-29
  Sharing Jesus with others

WEEK 2: GROWING DEEP ROOTS

- [ ] Day 1: Colossians 2:1-5
  United in love
- [ ] Day 2: Colossians 2:6-10
  Rooted and built up in Christ
- [ ] Day 3: Colossians 2:11-15
  New life through Jesus
- [ ] Day 4: Colossians 2:16-19
  Keeping our focus on Christ
- [ ] Day 5: Colossians 2:20-23
  Heart transformation

WEEK 3: CAMPFIRE CHARACTER

- [ ] Day 1: Colossians 3:1-4
  Set your minds on things above
- [ ] Day 2: Colossians 3:5-11
  Leaving old habits behind
- [ ] Day 3: Colossians 3:12-14
  Putting on kindness and love
- [ ] Day 4: Colossians 3:15-17
  Living with gratitude
- [ ] Day 5: Colossians 3:18-21
  Honoring God in our families

WEEK 4: TRAIL GUIDES FOR JESUS

- [ ] Day 1: Colossians 3:22-25
  Working for the Lord
- [ ] Day 2: Colossians 4:1-6
  Prayer and wise words
- [ ] Day 3: Colossians 4:7-9
  Encouraging friendships
- [ ] Day 4: Colossians 4:10-14
  Everyone has a purpose
- [ ] Day 5: Colossians 4:15-18
  Staying faithful

WEEK 5: FAITH IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

REVIEW

- [ ] Day 1: Colossians 1:15-17
  Jesus is first
- [ ] Day 2: Colossians 2:6-7
  Rooted in Christ
- [ ] Day 3: Colossians 3:12-15
  Made new in Jesus
- [ ] Day 4: Colossians 3:23-24
  Serving God daily
- [ ] Day 5: Colossians 3:17
  Living what you learned

WEEK 6: THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES

- [ ] Day 1: Deuteronomy 6:4-9
  Faith in everyday life
- [ ] Day 2: Psalm 1:1-3
  Growing like a strong tree
- [ ] Day 3: John 15:1-8
  Abiding in Jesus
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  Peace and joy in Christ
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  Rooted and built up in Him

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