

### **LEARN**

Read Colossians 1:15-23. What stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday? What was most helpful, encouraging or challenging to your walk with Christ?

What is verse 15 telling us about Jesus? Why is it so important to be sure we understand what “firstborn of all creation” means?

(Image = exact imprint. Christ perfectly images the One who has no image, being God himself. Firstborn is not about birth or being created, but about first in time and rank. Christ is preeminent -v18- in rank over all things as God. The gospel hangs on Christ as both man and God who alone is able to reconcile us to God.

How would you summarize this entire passage to someone who wanted to know who Jesus is?

(This is not merely theoretical. Passages like these should fortify a Christian’s understanding of Jesus as the eternal God. Press for a few summaries that incorporate language from the text and a personal grasp on Paul’s big points)

### **PRACTICE**

Why is it important to dwell on the fact that everything in creation was created *for Jesus*?

(It enhances our worship of Jesus, not only on Sunday mornings but throughout the week. It gives purpose to the work we do, and increases enjoyment of God’s good gifts in creation while keeping them in their right place... they are things to be enjoyed but only God is to be worshiped.)

Verse 20 and 22 both use the term “reconciliation”. What day-to-day results should being reconciled to God have in a Christian’s life?

(Many! Among them are abiding peace and joy, a transformed prayer life since you come as one in right standing with God by his grace, growing humility since you didn’t do the work of your own salvation)

How do you know when you are being stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel (v. 23)?

(Ideas include: dwell on and celebrate Christ’s work in saving you; remain in the Word and prayer; obey from a heart of love, repent of sin regularly, persevere in faith during trials)

### **CHANGE**

With your accountability group, discuss the top spiritual growth goal/need you personally have going into 2018. Consider how you can check in with one another on this goal or help each other grow this year.