

Group Conversation Guide:

Week of August 11-17, 2024

Message Title: Reasons for Coming to Church

Message Text: Colossians 3:15-17

Before Your Small Group Meeting:

- Attend or Watch Pastor Mark Ragsdale's Message: [Churchatviera.com/live](https://www.churchatviera.com/live)

Beginning the Conversation

- **Read Scripture:** Colossians 3:15-17 (NIV)

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Key Themes

- **Gratitude for God's Grace:** We come to church to express our thankfulness for the grace God has shown us.
- **The Word of Christ:** Gathering allows the Word of Christ to dwell in us richly as we teach and encourage one another.
- **Singing God's Praises:** Worship through song is a powerful way to connect with God and express our faith.
- **Fueling Up for Christ:** Church is a place where we are spiritually nourished and equipped to shine brightly for Christ in the world.
- **Finding Peace:** In a chaotic world, church is a sanctuary where we can find the peace of Christ.

Discussion Starter Questions:

Read Verse 15:

- What does it mean for the peace of Christ to rule in your heart?
- How does being a member of one body (the body of Christ) contribute to our sense of peace?

Read Verse 16:

- What does it mean for the message of Christ to dwell richly among us?
- In what ways can we teach and admonish one another with wisdom?
- How do psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit help us to embody and share the message of Christ?
- Why is gratitude an important component of our worship and teaching?

Read Verse 17:

- How can we ensure that everything we do, in word or deed, is done in the name of the Lord Jesus?
- Why is it important to give thanks to God the Father through Jesus in all we do?
- How can doing everything in the name of Jesus impact our interactions with others?

Make It Personal

- **Gratitude for God's Grace**
 - How do you personally express your gratitude for God's grace during church services?
- **The Word of Christ**
 - How has teaching and admonishing one another in church helped you grow in your faith?
- **Singing God's Praises**
 - Why do you think singing is such a significant part of our worship in church?
 - Can you share a worship song that has deeply impacted your faith journey?
- **Fueling Up for Christ**
 - How does attending church help you feel spiritually fueled and ready to face the week?
 - In what ways has the church equipped you to be a light for Christ in your daily life?
- **Finding Peace**
 - Can you describe a time when you felt the peace of Christ during a church service?
- Reflect on a recent church service where you felt particularly connected to one of these themes. Share your experience with the group.

Worship Together:

“In Christ Alone” - Shane and Shane: youtu.be/wfx-So7WcZ0?feature=shared

Key Words: (With Greek definitions)

- **Peace (Eirēnē):** A state of tranquility or harmony that comes from Christ.
- **Gratitude (Eucharistia):** Thankfulness, giving of thanks.
- **Dwell (Enoikeō):** To inhabit, to take up residence in.
- **Teach (Didaskō):** To instruct or impart knowledge.
- **Admonish (Noutheteō):** To warn or counsel against something.

Practical Application:

- **Gratitude for God’s Grace:** This week, take a moment each day to thank God for His grace.
- **The Word of Christ:** Commit to reading a passage of Scripture each day and consider how you can let its message dwell richly in you.
- **Singing God’s Praises:** Choose a worship song that resonates with you and listen to it throughout the week.
- **Fueling Up for Christ:** Identify one way you can be a light for Christ in your community this week.
- **Finding Peace:** Practice a moment of stillness each day, asking Christ to fill you with His peace.