

# Group Conversation Guide For the Week of October 20

**Series:** Jesus Above All  
**Title:** Avoiding Deception  
**Scripture:** Colossians 2:1-8 (ESV)

## Before Your Small Group Meeting:

Watch or attend Pastor Mark Ragsdale's message on Colossians 2:1-8:  
[churchatviera.com/live](http://churchatviera.com/live)

## Icebreaker: "Highs and Lows"

Go around the group and ask each person to share two things:

**High** – A positive or exciting moment from the past week.

**Low** – A challenging or difficult moment from the past week.

## Beginning the Conversation

Read Colossians 2:1-8 together as a group before discussing.

## Key Terms

- **Spiritual Struggle:** (*ἀγών, agōn*) - A contest or spiritual struggle.
- **Encouragement and Unity:** *Encouraged* (*παρακληθῶσι, paraklēthōsi*) - To be called to one's side; to encourage. *Knit Together* (*συντεθειμένα, syntethemena*) - United in love and close fellowship.
- **Knowledge and Mystery:** *Knowledge* (*γνώσις, gnōsis*) - Spiritual and moral insight. *Mystery* (*μυστήριον, mystērion*) - Hidden truths, specifically Christ.
- **Deception:** *Delude* (*ἐξαπατήση, exapatēsē*) - To deceive or lead astray. *False Prophets* (*ψευδοπροφήτες, pseudoprophētēs*) - Those claiming to speak for God falsely.
- **Faith and Growth:** *Rooted* (*ἐρριζωμένοι, errizōmenoi*) - Firmly planted in faith. *Abounding* (*περισσεύοντες, perisseuontes*) - Overflowing in gratitude and thankfulness.

## Discussion Starter Questions:

1. **What's the great mystery?**
  - Paul mentions that God's mystery is Christ. How does understanding this mystery shape our faith?
  - Why is this truth important for both believers and non-believers?
2. **How can we avoid deception?**
  - What are some "plausible arguments" that can lead us astray in our faith (v. 4)?
  - Discuss the implications of being taken captive by philosophy and empty deceit (v. 8).

3. **What to watch out for in false teachers:**
  - How do the five points listed (remaking Jesus, rewriting the Bible, etc.) manifest in today's church context?
  - Why is it crucial to focus on discipleship alongside outreach?
4. **How to walk in Him:**
  - Reflect on walking like a hiker (v. 6). What does it mean to walk in Christ daily?
  - In what ways are you rooted like a tree (v. 7)? How can we strengthen our roots together?
5. **Joy in unity and thanksgiving:**
  - How can we support each other in being unified like an army (v. 5)?
  - What are practical ways to abound in thanksgiving in our community (v. 7)?

## Worship Together

"Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me" by CityAlight: [youtu.be/hwc2d1Xt8qM?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/hwc2d1Xt8qM?feature=shared)

- A powerful reflection on how Christ works in and through us, especially in the face of challenges.

## Personal Application: Living in Light of Christ's Truth

Encourage your group members to choose one of the following activities to complete before next week's session:

- **Pray:** Ask God to help you discern truth from deception in your life.
- **Reflect:** Journal about areas where you may be influenced by false teachings or philosophies.
- **Serve:** Find a way to help someone who may be struggling with deception in their faith.
- **Encourage:** Reach out to someone who may be vulnerable to false teachings and offer your support.

## Group Prayer

End your time by praying together as a group. Thank God for the truth of Christ in our lives and ask for wisdom and discernment as we navigate faith challenges.

## Group Encouragement

Focus on being vigilant against deception. Reflect on Paul's warnings and encourage each other to remain grounded in Christ, growing in maturity and helping others do the same.