

# Group Conversation Guide

## For the Week of October 13

**Series:** Jesus Above All  
**Title:** Let's Have a Serious Talk  
**Scripture:** Colossians 1:24-29 (NIV)

### Before Your Small Group Meeting:

Watch or attend Pastor Mark Ragsdale's message on *Colossians: Prayers for You*:  
[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.

### Group Discussion

Read **Colossians 1:24-29** together as a group before discussing.

#### What's the great mystery?

- Paul reveals that the "mystery" hidden for ages is **Christ in you, the hope of glory** (v.27). Why is this truth such a powerful revelation for both Jews and Gentiles?
- How does knowing that Christ lives in us change the way we live day-to-day? Reflect on the significance of having *the hope of glory* in you.

#### What's our end game?

- Paul's goal is to "present everyone fully mature in Christ" (v.28). What does maturity in Christ look like? How does it differ from merely knowing about Christ?
- Discuss what spiritual maturity means in your own life. What areas are you still growing in? How can we help each other move toward greater maturity in faith and action?

## How does Christ work in us for this goal?

- Paul mentions that he *strenuously contends with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me* (v.29). What role does Christ's power play in our personal growth and in helping others mature in their faith?
- How can we tap into Christ's strength rather than relying solely on our own? What does it look like to walk in this power daily?

## Why do we suffer?

- Paul talks about suffering for the church. Have you ever experienced hardship because of your faith? Why do you think God allows believers to suffer?
- How can struggles help us grow spiritually or be part of God's bigger plan?

## How do we suffer?

- Paul finds joy in suffering because it advances the Gospel. How have you stayed faithful during hard times? Is there a way to find joy in the middle of struggle?
- What can we learn from Paul's view on suffering? How can we handle challenges with a similar attitude?

## Why should we be glad to suffer?

- Suffering for Christ connects us to His sacrifice. How can difficulties bring us closer to Jesus and His work?
- How can you find meaning or even gladness in your struggles? How can we support each other when facing hardship?

## Worship Together:

### "Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me" by CityAlight

- [Watch on YouTube](#)  
A powerful reflection on how Christ works in and through us, especially in the face of challenges.

## Application: Living in Light of Christ's Power and Purpose

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

- **Pray:** Take time this week to pray for strength and joy in the midst of challenges you are facing. Ask God to help you understand how suffering for His sake leads to greater purpose and maturity.
- **Reflect:** Reflect on the truth that *Christ is in you, the hope of glory*. Spend some time journaling or meditating on how this impacts your daily life, your decisions, and your attitude toward challenges.
- **Serve:** Like Paul, seek to serve others through your faith, even if it involves sacrifice. Find a way to serve someone this week, whether in your family, church, or community, and do it with the mindset that you are advancing Christ's kingdom.
- **Encourage:** Identify someone who is going through a difficult time. Reach out to them with a word of encouragement, a note, or a prayer, reminding them of the hope we have in Christ.

### Group Prayer

End your time by praying together as a group. Thank God for the mystery of Christ in us, the hope of glory. Pray for strength and wisdom to endure suffering with joy, and for the maturity to live fully for Him, growing in spiritual maturity day by day.

### Group Challenge

Focus on the truth that Christ's power is at work in you. As you face challenges this week, remember Paul's words and ask Christ to strengthen you as you strive to grow in maturity and help others do the same.