

- Does this reality of Christ as the “firstborn of creation” make you think differently about the miracle of the incarnation?

| *Christ in Creation: Have a volunteer read Colossians 1:16-17.*

Verse 16 tells us that all things in heaven and on earth were created in Christ and for Christ. He was with and in God — and was God (John 1:1–3) — as God created all things through him. He is the architect, the artist, and the craftsman.

- How does thinking about Christ as the creator increase your trust in him?

This passage tells us that nothing on earth exists for itself—everything on earth was created for Christ, to display his glory. The world was not made so Christ could have you, it was made so you could have Christ.

- Do you find delight in knowing that everything is about him and not you? Or does this reality clash with an attitude of pride in your life? How do these verses bring your life’s purpose into focus?

Christ is the key that unlocks the mystery of the universe. In Christ, everything holds together and coheres, from the seed that sprouts a tomato plant, to the spinning galaxies, to the complexities of human relationships. While our lives often lack clarity and coherence. We often feel like we cannot keep everything together. Christ holds everything together in creation and in our lives, yet he is not just maintaining, he is moving the entire universe toward a consummation; he is sustaining and intricately working everything together for when his purposes will be perfectly attained for our good and for his glory.

- While we are often more accustomed to speaking of Christ’s finished work at the cross, how does this passage depict Christ’s ongoing work in creation? How does the reality of Christ’s ongoing work change the way we live out our Christian lives?

| *Redemption and the New Creation: Have a volunteer read Colossians 1:18-20.*

Christ is the head of the Church which means that he has authority over the Church “so that in everything he might be preeminent.” Everything in creation exists to glorify Christ and he has authority over every area over creation and every area of our lives.

- Do you tend to view the preeminence of Christ as just over the Church or “religious things”? In what ways do you resist the preeminence of Christ over other areas of your life?

Verse 20 explains that Christ is reconciling all things to himself. This does not mean that all will be saved and none condemned in a universalist sense. “All things” refers to everything that will be in the new creation. Paul explains that all things “by the blood of his cross.” Here we see that Christ’s redemptive work on the cross brings hope not only for Christians, but for creation too!

- How does this verse ignite your Christian imagination and cause you to hope for the future? What things in your life are you longing to see reconciled through Christ?

LOOKING FORWARD

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Colossians 1:15-20 is one of the clearest explanations of Christ in all of Scripture.

- This week’s passage his passage brings clarity to Christ’s being, his role in creation, and in redemption. Why does an accurate view of Christ matter? How does your view of Christ inform how you are to live out your Christian life?

FAMILIES

Use the following questions and truths to disciple your children throughout the week.

Discuss the characteristics of Christ that are disclosed this week’s passage.