

# Session 1: JOINT

## Colossians 1 v 1-8 —What we believe

### Big idea:

Faith in Jesus, love for other Christians and the hope of heaven—this is the gospel that is bearing fruit. We must hold on to the truth.

### Guidance for questions:

1. This is supposed to be a light introduction. So “thank you” could have been as they got off the bus, or as you gave them a drink!

They may not have said thank you to God—this doesn’t need to be pushed.

It’s good if you’re willing to share at this point too.

As we read the first part of Colossians, we’ll see how many things Paul is grateful for.

2. An apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God (the jargon buster tells you what an apostle is). Paul has a special responsibility from God.

3. It tells us who he is, and tells us he’s here in this place writing because God sent him—not on his own accord. This letter isn’t Paul’s made-up thoughts.

4. He describes them as holy people, the faithful brothers and sisters. They are family to him, and they are Christians—he calls them holy people. As Paul writes, he writes to them as Christians,

5. Thanking God for the Colossian Christians. He is always praying for them.

6.

a) Because of their faith in Jesus

b) Because of their love for all God’s people

These Christians have faith in Jesus, and this shows in the way that they love other people.

7. Faith and love spring from hope stored up in heaven.

These Christians know where they belong. They know they’ll be with Jesus one day—and that affects how they live and love. They know this because they have been taught the truth of the gospel. They know who Jesus is, why he came and what it means to love and follow him—now and forever.

8.

a) All over the world

b) Among the Colossians

## 9. People becoming Christians

10. Since the day they heard it and understood God's grace.

As soon as they understood who Jesus was and what he'd done for them, they began living it out and sharing it with others, who also became Christians.

11. It is bearing fruit and growing around the world. People are hearing it, believing it, living it and continuing to share it.

12. God's grace. They hadn't earned God's love—Jesus' death means they are forgiven.

13. The faith and love of the Colossians, the hope of heaven, the gospel bearing fruit, God's grace. Paul gives thanks that the men and women in Colossae really know and love Jesus. He can see that because they love and trust God and love and serve each other. They know that they are heaven bound, and other people see this in them as they share it with others and more people come to know and love Jesus too. They don't deserve it, they've done nothing—it's all because of Jesus!

14. Epaphras. We read about him in Colossians 1 v 7-8, Colossians 4 v 12 and Philemon 1 v 23 (a letter that was also written when Paul was in prison and Epaphras was with him). Colossians 4 v 12 tells us that although Epaphras is not with the Colossians at this time, like Paul, he is still praying for them always and is concerned for their growth as Christians.

15. Paul is an apostle of Christ, Epaphras is a faithful minister of Christ—fellow servant. They are both followers of Jesus who pass on the good news.

16. They're encouraged by them, and thankful to God for them.  
Epaphras has been passing on info to Paul.