

Session 5: JOINT

Colossians 2 v 1-7 —Stick with Jesus

Big idea:

The gospel does not change—stay rooted in the truth of Jesus and continue to grow and be built up in him.

Guidance on questions:

1. Maybe things such as:
 - reading your Bible, praying regularly, going to church, sharing faith, being different at school/college, not doing certain things that you know aren't how God calls us to live , eg: gossip, swearing, unkind words, sexual immorality.
2. He's contending/struggling for the Christians he knows and for those he's never met! It's not easy... but his struggles aren't for himself or his own comfort. He's struggling on behalf of other people. He's so committed to God's people, even those he hasn't met—he's contending for them, he wants them to keep going as Christians.
3.
 - a) 1 v 9: Praying continually
 - b) 1 v 28: Proclaiming Jesus
4. He wants them to be:
 - a) encouraged in heart
 - b) united in love
5. Because in Jesus Paul has all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. It's worth it, because the most important thing is to know Jesus. So even when it's tough, he still knows the mystery of God, Christ.
6. The warning is about people who may try and deceive them by fine-sounding arguments.
7. Some "fine-sounding arguments" might be:
 - The Bible is important—but it's a bit outdated these days, so you don't have to listen to all of it. Some bits were only relevant in the old days.
 - It's ok to sin, because God will forgive you no matter what you do.
 - Church is ok, if you enjoy it—but it won't matter if you don't go very often.
 - God wants you to be happy, so if sleeping with your boyfriend makes you happy, God will think it's a good idea.

8. Paul delights to see how disciplined they are, how firm their faith in Christ is. He's encouraged by the way they're living and relying on Jesus for all they need. Their faith in Jesus is firm, and they're living for him, even though Paul isn't there.

9. In spirit.

He knows them, and knows what they're going through. Because of what they share as Christians they're united, and it's God's Holy Spirit that ultimately unites us. We're all part of God's family.

10. It might be worth having some info before the session to help with this.

11. Verse 6 starts with "Therefore" or "So then".

When we see a "therefore" we need to ask what it's there for. So we need to look back because these verses are connected to the verses that have come before.

So then, because of all that Paul *has already told us...* we need to put verses 6 and 7 into practice.

12. They received Christ Jesus as Lord. That is all—they didn't *do* things!

13. Jesus was the one the people had been waiting for. He is God's chosen one, who'd been promised since the beginning. He is the one sent to deal with the problem of sin—so accepting Jesus as Christ means accepting him as the one who came to save us, since we can't save ourselves.

14. Jesus is not just our rescuer, he's Lord. When we accept his rescue, we also need to accept his rule. We need to be ready to say that he knows best, and we want to live the way that he says is best.

15.

What are they do?	What does this mean? How can you do it?
Live in him (some versions say "walk in him") (v 6)	Whatever you do, whatever you say, whatever you think, wherever you go—walking with Jesus. Trying to do what he would do, live how he would have you live. Think about your life, how can you make sure you're walking with Jesus. Start your day listening to his word—and put it into practice.
Rooted in him (v 7)	Staying with Jesus, not moving from the truth that you believed when you first became a Christian. It's all about Jesus. Stand firm in Jesus. Keep reminding yourself of the gospel.

What are they to do?	What does this mean? How can you do it?
Built up in him (v 7)	Learning more and more about Jesus from his word. Learning from both the Old and New Testaments and seeing how God is at work in the world. Listening to what God has to say about the way you live your life.
Strengthened in the faith as you were taught (v 7)	Keep learning, keep being reminded of the truth about Jesus. Trusting God through difficult times. Meet with other Christians to help encourage you in this. Pray regularly.
Overflowing with thankfulness (v 7)	Never lose the wonder of how amazing God is. Never stop being thankful for Jesus, and the fact that his death has reconciled you with God, creator and sustainer of the universe. Listen to praise songs. Sing praise to God in church/youth group.