

# Life Group Leader Guide

## *Experiencing Christ – Week #9*

(Suggested Format and Discussion Questions)

### Fellowship and Food (15 minutes)

Create a festive atmosphere for the last meeting of the Fall Season and the Colossians study. Be creative. How can you give a little spice to the last meeting? Often it just takes a little thing to change the atmosphere.

### Welcome (15 minutes)

- Let people know what you will be doing to close out the meeting (see below in the “Share and Prayer” section). This will give people an opportunity to be thinking if they did not come prepared to share.
- Begin making plans for the holiday Off-Season if you haven’t already. Most groups will want at least two touch points during the Off-Season with a pre-Christmas gathering to celebrate what the Lord has been doing in their lives and a post-New Years gathering before the start of the Winter Season on Jan 28.
- Please distribute to your group members the attached *Outreach Opportunities – Nov 06*. It gives great opportunities to celebrate Christ through service.

### Bible Study (40 minutes)

Read Col. 4:7-18, and then review the main points of the sermon outline.

1. **(Brothers - encouragement)** Read Col. 4:7-8. Of all the things we do for one another in Christ, encouragement certainly comes near the top of the list! Who is one of the most consistent encouragers you know, and what has been that person’s effect on you and other believers?

LEADER NOTES: The theme of the sermon is identifying with those figures in biblical history who can help us reach higher spiritual goals.

2. **(Brothers - surprise)** Read Col. 4:9 and Philemon 1:8-21. Trusting Christ can bring some dramatic and surprising changes, because we must face our acts and responsibilities as servants of Christ. Onesimus was returning home to make things right. Tell us an example in your own life where God led you to make something right.

LEADER NOTES: Don’t get confused about pride here. One has to have done wrong to make something right! Further, when God inspires us to do what is right, he gets the honor.

3. **(Co-laborers: second chances)** Read Col. 4:10-12. Mark did not stay with Paul on his first journey (Acts 13:13), but he later proved himself (2 Tim. 4:11) and here enjoys Paul’s endorsement. When someone fails you (whether by sin or not), what must they

do to re-enter your circle of associates in the work of Christ? How can we welcome them back as we should?

4. **(Co-laborers: hero & deserter)** Read Col. 4:10, 14. In the body of Christ we will meet all kinds of people, some devoted and some not. Aristarchus was as good as they come (Acts 19:29, 20:4, 27:2). Demas deserted Paul for worldly reasons (2 Tim. 4:10). What effect does this broad spectrum of maturity have on our church and our Life Groups? How can we avoid being like Demas but instead model on Aristarchus? How can we avoid being like Demas but instead model on Aristarchus?

5. **(Co-laborers: generosity)** Read Col. 4:15. Nympha gives us an example of Christian hospitality and generosity. There is no time like the present to thank those who routinely host your Life Group! In fact, how can we make thankfulness a routine response to the generosity of McFBC members?

6. **(Challenge!)** Read Col. 4:17. Like Archippus all of us have a ministry to carry out in the body of Christ. What is a ministry God wants you to carry out as a member of McFBC, and how is it going?

LEADER NOTES: When you think about it, even those who have small children, those who are sick, and those who are extremely busy can find some way to serve the body, even if it is simply making telephone calls or cooking a meal.

7. **(Challenge!)** Read Col. 4:16-18. Paul closes the letter by reminding us that being a steward for God is not all fun and games, and yet by God's grace we have everything we need to serve as a steward. As you look back over the various people in this passage, with whom do you most identify in your journey toward maturity in Christ? Please explain.

## Share and Prayer (40 minutes)

Celebrate what God has done through the Colossians study:

- Ask each group member to share what God has done in their life through the Colossians study. This could be a timeless truth about God or a specific verse that has impacted their heart, a new habit that has been created (e.g. personal time in God's Word or coming to Life Group), a key action step they have already taken, or a key issue in their life they have begun working on.
- After each person shares, take the time to pray for this group member and to give thanks for what God has and is doing.