

# **The Church Unleashed**

“The Who and The What”  
Colossians 1:15-20

## **OPEN WITH PRAYER**

### **GETTING STARTED:**

Throughout our lives, there are certain things that are within our power to control. What are some of those things for you?

By the same token, there are certain things that are not within our ability to control. What are a few of those out of control things?

### **LEARNING & APPLYING GOD’S WORD**

Read Colossians 1:15-20 together.

1. It is thought that in these verses, Paul was borrowing language from an ancient Jewish hymn about God’s *wisdom* or *logos*, that part of God’s being that was present at creation, that is talked about throughout the book of Proverbs, and that John even talks about in his gospel in chapter one. But here, Paul attributes the characteristics of God’s *logos* to Jesus Christ. What vision of Jesus does Paul offer?
2. Paul repeats this Greek word *panta* or “all”, “all things”, “everything” throughout this passage. What point is Paul trying to make?
3. How does this vision of Jesus compare with the reality of the world? Does it feel like Jesus is supreme over everything? Why or why not? What do we as the church do about the disconnect?
4. Paul makes a sweeping comment about reconciling all things through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross (verse 20). What are the implications of this verse for you? For your community? For the world?
5. How does this ancient hymn about Jesus Christ inform our worship as a church?

6. Based on your reading of this ancient hymn, what is secure, eternal, and not up for grabs about our worship life? What, if anything, is open to change? Why?

### **LIVING OUT ‘REAL LIFE’**

1. Paul makes it abundantly clear that Jesus Christ is supreme. What area of your life would you like to experience Jesus being supreme? (Hint: go back and see how you answered the question about what is out of your control in your life right now!) Take some time as a group inviting the living Christ to reign supreme in those areas that you share.

### **SHARING AND PRAYER (Prayer Requests)**

Take some time to share prayer requests, where you need to find God’s grace and peace. Be sure to give thanks for each other and pray for one another’s needs. When we pray together, we find the power of God.