

GROWING DEEPER



A STUDY OF COLOSSIANS

READING

Option 1: Colossians 3:12-4:2 – Notice how compassion, humility, love, peace, gratitude, and Christ's lordship frame the household instructions.

Option 2: Genesis 1:26-28; Mark 10:42-45; Philippians 2:5-11; above passage – Ask how creation, the fall, Christ's servant lordship, and the new humanity reshape authority and submission.

REFLECTION

- Where do you possess authority, influence, or responsibility? How could you use it more like Jesus, for the protection, formation, and flourishing of others?
- Where are you called to submit, obey, support, or serve? What would it look like to do so freely and faithfully under Christ without giving another person the allegiance that belongs to Jesus alone?
- Which old-age pattern is most likely to appear in your relationships? Control, passivity, resentment, people-pleasing, harshness, discouragement, or using status to excuse wrongdoing? What new-creation practice should replace it?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Christ is Lord over every authority, relationship, responsibility, and part of our lives. Expose the places where we grasp for control, avoid responsibility, resist faithful submission, or use others for our own good. Form in us the compassion, humility, patience, courage, justice, and self-giving love of the new humanity. Teach us to use whatever strength and authority You have entrusted to us for the good of others, and to serve faithfully when our work is unseen. Make our homes, relationships, and work signs of Your kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PREPARE

Read Colossians 4:2–6 several times before we gather again. Watch how Paul moves from life under Christ's lordship within the household to prayerful participation in Christ's mission toward outsiders. **Framing question:** How should prayer, wisdom, and gracious speech shape the church's witness to those outside?