

# in all things

## ON THE WAY TO THE GATHERING STUDY #6

### GOALS:

1. This study will expose participants to Colossians in its entirety by reading it out loud.
2. This study will help students recall the themes from the previous Pre-Gathering studies and help them see where these themes appear in the letter of Colossians.

The theme passage for the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering is Colossians 1:15-20. In the span of a few verses, the apostle Paul manages to tell the Story of All Things. As the letter goes on, we see this Story of All Things playing out in the lives of real Christians living in the city of Colossae.

The themes we have been learning about in the Pre-Gathering studies (and the themes we'll unpack at the Gathering as well) all appear in this four-chapter letter. Reading through this letter in its entirety and noting the themes that pop up throughout the letter will be great preparation for what you'll experience in Houston.

We know it might sound like a lot of work to read an entire book of the Bible on your way to the Gathering, but it doesn't take as long as you think. Even reading it out loud, you can read all four chapters of Colossians in about 15 minutes!

On your way to Houston, take some time to hear God's Word and take note of where the themes we've learned about appear in this letter.

Read through Colossians 1-4 out loud with the lenses of the 4 pre-Gathering study biblical themes. Each time youth recognize one of the 4 themes (cleansing/new life, redemption, dwelling, and enlightening/revealing wisdom), have them shout out the icon that matches the theme (water, chains, temple, light).

**LEADER NOTE: If you want to do more than have participants shout out the icon, make cut-outs of the pictures and have them hold up the icon that matches the theme.**

Prior to beginning reading together, have 4 student leaders review each of the biblical themes. Ideally these 4 leaders are those you have prepared through the pre-Gathering bible studies. Use the information below to help the student leader see how he or she can explain/review each Biblical theme and what words or phrases may trigger that theme.

**LEADER NOTE: You may want to prep those 4 student leaders prior to starting this study to ensure that they are comfortable explaining that theme. Students can also choose to simply read off of your leader guide. (If you don't have students who can lead in this way, you as the leader can walk the entire group through this exercise.)**

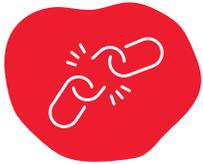


**WATER:** God **cleanses** and **brings new life** in the Story of All Things. Throughout the Bible, we see the image water as a means of cleansing people of their sin, bringing life when there was death, and connecting people into a community of God’s people through this life-giving source. God uses baptism to cleanse us, give us a new life, and connect us to the community of the church.

**LEADER NOTE:** You may choose to share these key words, or ask students what words they think would show this Biblical theme.

Key Words/Images-- water, baptism, spring, wells, rivers, seas, wash, cleanse

**SAY:** Whenever you see some of these words or images, shout out **WATER!**



**REDEMPTION:** God **redeems** His people in the Story of All Things. His redeeming acts reveal who He is and how He interacts with humanity. Ultimately, our redemption comes through the blood of Jesus shed on the cross. Jesus’ death and resurrection purchases us and wins us back from captivity to sin, death, and the power of the devil.

**LEADER NOTE:** You may choose to share these key words, or ask students what words they think would show this Biblical theme.

Key Words/Images—redeem, deliver, rescue, save, purchase, bought, blood, possessive language like “His”, Exodus images

**SAY:** Whenever you see some of these words or images, shout out **CHAINS!**



**DWELLING:** God **dwells** with His people in the Story of All Things. Any time the Scriptures speak of God’s desire to be with His people or shows Him interacting with them, this is the theme of God dwelling. The tabernacle and temple are key places where God chooses to dwell with his people. Ultimately, the truest temple is Christ, God with us. He continues to dwell within his body, the church.

**LEADER NOTE:** You may choose to share these key words, or ask students what words they think would show this Biblical theme.

Key Words/Images-- dwell, presence, temple, tabernacle, church, “in Him”, “(God/Christ/Spirit) in you”

**SAY:** Whenever you see some of these words or images, shout out **TEMPLE!**



**WISDOM:** God **enlightens** the darkness and **reveals His wisdom** in the Story of All Things. God repeatedly uses light to overpower the darkness. Light imagery is also used many times to convey how God brings his truth and his wisdom to bear in the creation he has made. Ultimately, Jesus is the light of the world, the revelation of God that brings all of God’s promises to fulfillment. Christ continues to shine His light through His church.

**LEADER NOTE:** You may choose to share these key words, or ask students what words they think would show this Biblical theme.

Key Words/Images—light, wisdom, reveal, knowledge, truth, made known, understanding, mystery, (Any language that talks about opposing the darkness counts too.)

**SAY:** Whenever you see some of these words or images, shout out **LIGHT!**

After these explanations, read through Colossians 1-4 out loud as a group and conclude in prayer.