

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.



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.



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.



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.



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.

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