



SPRING 2018



SPRING 2018  
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LEADER GUIDE INCLUDED

YOU - CONNECT. GROW. SERVE. GO!

**COMING NEXT QUARTER**

**THE TRUTH STARTS HERE**  
As a believer, I can't allow the culture to dictate how I live.

**NO DOUBT ABOUT IT**  
I don't have to know everything, but I can still share what I know about Jesus.

**FINAL DESTINATIONS**  
Your choices determine your destination.

**WITHHOLDING NOTHING**  
Jesus is either Lord of all or not Lord at all.

**THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH**  
Once saved, always saved.

**RETURN THE FAVOR**  
We are commanded to forgive.



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# JESUS

Jesus Christ was with God the Father before the world was created. He became human and lived among humanity as Jesus of Nazareth. He came to show us what God the Father is like. He lived a sinless life, showing us how to live; and He died upon a cross to pay for our sins. God raised Him from the dead.

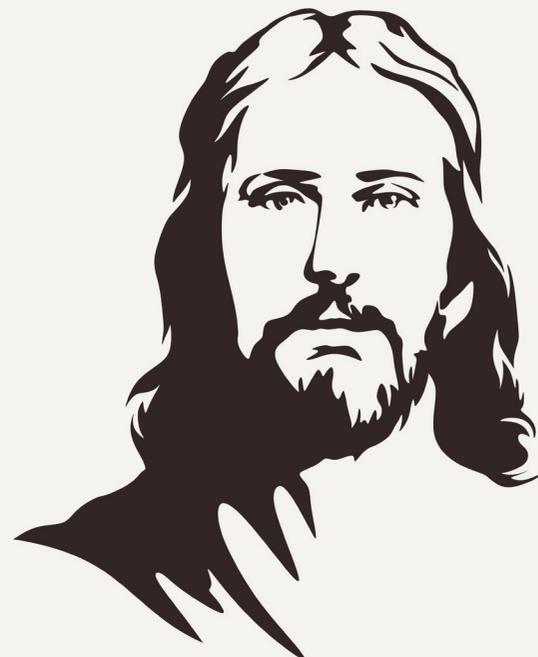
Jesus is the source of eternal life. Jesus wants to be the doorway to new life for you. In the Bible He was called the “Lamb of God” (John 1:29). In the Old Testament, sacrifices were made for the sins of the people. Jesus became the sacrificial lamb offered for your sin.

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). He is waiting for you now.

- Admit to God that you are a sinner. Repent, turning away from your sin.
- By faith receive Jesus Christ as God’s Son and accept Jesus’ gift of forgiveness from sin. He took the penalty for your sin by dying on the cross.
- Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

You may pray a prayer similar to this as you call on God to save you: “Dear God, I know that You love me. I confess my sin and need of salvation. I turn away from my sin and place my faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. In Jesus’ name I pray, amen.”

After you have received Jesus Christ into your life, tell a pastor or another Christian about your decision. Show others your faith in Christ by asking for baptism by immersion in your local church as a public expression of your faith.

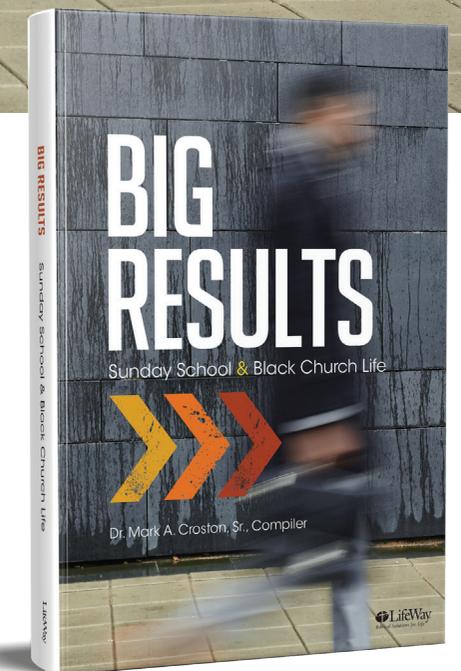


# BIG RESULTS

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Dr. Mark A. Croston, Sr., Compiler



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## Staying Fit ... Spiritually

We talk a lot about the importance of staying physically fit, but what about the health of your spirit? **Connect, Grow, Serve, Go** is a call to evaluate your present spiritual condition and discover ways to improve your spiritual health. Packed into each biblical concept—**Connect, Grow, Serve, Go**—is a simple way you can move forward, not remain stagnant. Best of all, these tools will stand the test of time—no “fad” diets here. They will help you become spiritually healthy, and stay that way.



WITH AN OPEN HEART  
*MARK 12:29-31*



IN BODY, MIND, & SPIRIT  
*ROMANS 12:2*



WITH WILLING HANDS  
*1 PETER 4:10-11*



WITH READY FEET  
*MATTHEW 28:19-20*

**Connect** urges you to worship, pray, fellowship, and relate to others in positive relationships at work, at home, and in other settings. Spiritual fitness results when you connect with God, with others, and with your church family.

**Grow** refers to learning and understanding more about God and His expectations of His people, which comes through Bible study. You grow by applying that knowledge to your everyday living.

**Serve** describes the work you do inside your church. Your church is full of ministry and service opportunities. You serve by using your spiritual gifts, skills, and passions to glorify God. All of us must work together for the church to function as God intended.

**Go** moves you outside the church and into the community and the world. Evangelism and missions are ways to go into your community and the world in the name of Jesus Christ. It might be uncomfortable at first, but you will experience first-hand the difference Christ can make through you.

---

Connect, Grow, Serve, Go must impact YOU, the individual, before it can permeate your circle of friends, your Bible study group, and then the church as a whole. But balance is the key! We must be actively participating in all four areas if we want to be spiritually healthy. All Go and no Connect with God or other believers results in powerless activity and wears you out. A steady diet of Grow without the action of Serve or Go leads to unhealthy spiritual obesity and laziness. We need a balanced spiritual diet to remain fit and able to serve God in the ways He has gifted us.

The **YOU** lessons will help you Connect , Grow , Serve , and Go . Look for these icons throughout this issue. They will help you check and maintain your spiritual health.

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**ERIC GEIGER**

Vice President, Church Resources

**MARK CROSTON**

General Editor

**BEVERLY SONNIER**

Content Editor

**KEN BRADY**

Manager, Adult Ongoing Bible Studies

**MICHAEL KELLEY**

Director, Groups Ministry

**Send questions/comments to:** Content Editor by email to [beverly.sonnier@lifeway.com](mailto:beverly.sonnier@lifeway.com); or mail to Content Editor, YOU!, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234-0175; or make comments on the Web at [lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com).

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# A WORD FROM THE GENERAL EDITOR **MARK CROSTON**

Spring is my favorite time of the year! The chill of the winter is past. Trees and flowers start to bloom. Things just seem to come to life. While I was a teenager in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, I tried planting a garden one spring. I cleared the grass off a place about three-by-four feet in our backyard. I bought some corn seeds and watermelon seeds at Woolworths. I put the seeds in the rocky soil and waited to reap my rewards!



Needless to say, that didn't happen. Some of the seeds turned into small plants, and those were either scorched by the sun, eaten by bugs, or washed away in the rain. I was looking for big results, but none materialized.

Sunday School is one of the best tools our churches have to deepen our discipleship, reach people with the gospel, and grow our churches. But often, like my meager attempt at gardening, many churches never see the great harvest. The problem with my garden was that I was only doing what I thought I saw others do. I didn't realize all I needed to do to make my garden succeed. You could fill a book with all I didn't know about growing corn and watermelon.

This is true for Sunday Schools in many churches. So we wrote a book, *Big Results: Sunday School and Black Church Life*. This book contains helpful information you can use to deepen your discipleship, reach people with the gospel, and grow your church.

This year we celebrate the twenty-fifth year of Black Church Leadership and Family Conference, July 16–20, 2018 in Ridgecrest, North Carolina. If you have ever been before, come for a great reunion this year and bring a friend. There is a full program for every member of the family!

Get all the details on the book and the conference at [www.LifeWay.com/BlackChurchLife](http://www.LifeWay.com/BlackChurchLife). You never know where God will lead YOU!

**Dr. Mark A. Croston Sr.**

YOU General Editor

National Director of Black Church Partnerships

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Dr. Mark A. Croston Sr.

YOU General Editor

National Director of Black Church Partnerships

[www.lifeway.com/BlackChurchLife](http://www.lifeway.com/BlackChurchLife)



# A WORD FROM THE EDITOR...



It's a new season for YOU! This quarter's lessons are the first to have been developed by a talented group of pastors, associate ministers, Bible study teachers, and ministers of education representing young, middle, and older adult age groups—both male and female. We were honored to have Greenforest Community Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia, serve as the host church in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

Going forward, the quarterly three-day development conference will be held in additional regions of the country (including California, Texas, and Illinois). We are excited to have diverse strong Christian voices continue to pour into YOU!

As you study these lessons on making Christ Lord of your life (“Withholding Nothing”), truths you can trust (“The Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth”), and forgiveness (“Return the Favor”), my prayer is that each one will speak into your life the truth and power of God’s Word.

It’s a new season. Expect new things!

Peace and blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beverly". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

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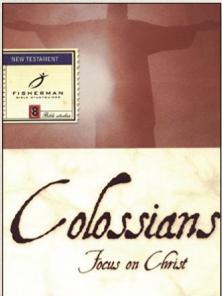
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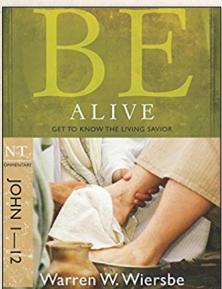
# SUGGESTED DISCIPLE-MAKING RESOURCES

Here's a list of resources you can use to deepen your understanding of the units of study this quarter. These resources complement the lessons for this quarter and can be used for small group study, midweek study, or personal Bible study.



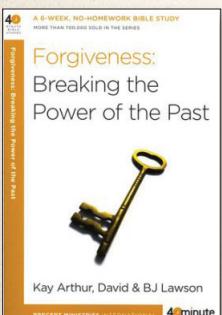
## COLOSSIANS: FOCUS ON CHRIST (CONNECT) (FOR UNIT 1)

*Colossians: Focus on Christ* by Luci Shaw is an eight-week New Testament Bible study. Readers will study Paul's letter to the Colossians and realize that aspects of heresy that threatened the early church are active in our own world today. Paul provides an answer as he encourages us to focus on Christ.



## JOHN: GET TO KNOW THE LIVING SAVIOR (GROW) (FOR UNIT 2)

The Wiersbe Bible Study Series: *John: Get to Know the Living Savior* by Warren Wiersbe is an eight-week study that takes an in-depth look at the life of Christ and features engaging questions and practical applications, all designed to help you connect God's Word with your life. This study looks at the life of Christ from a miraculous public ministry that confirmed His calling mission to personal revelations that can transform the life of every believer.



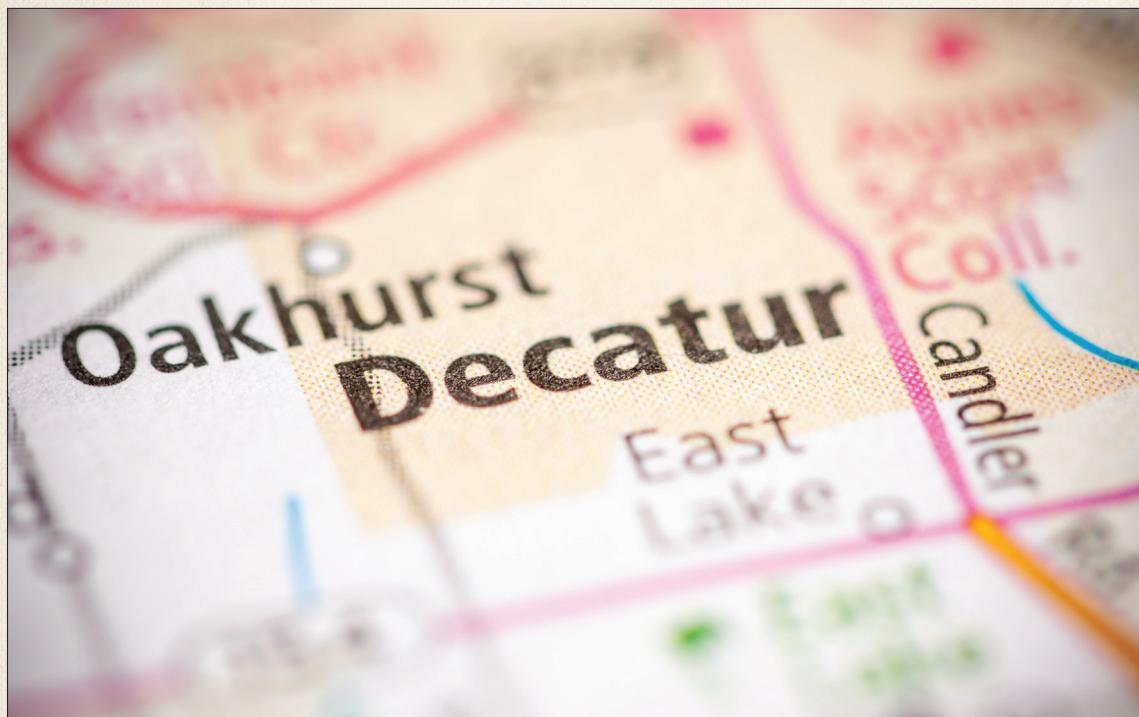
## FORGIVENESS: BREAKING THE POWER OF THE PAST (SERVE) (FOR UNIT 3)

*Forgiveness: Breaking the Power of the Past* by Kay Arthur and David and BJ Lawson is a six week Bible study that deals with the difficult questions of forgiveness, including *How can I forgive when the pain is so great? Does forgiving mean I have to forget the past?* and *What if I choose not to forgive?* As you dig into what the Bible says on this vital topic, you'll encounter the depths of God's own mercy and discover how choosing forgiveness can free you from a painful past and propel you toward being all that God intends you to be.

Visit [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com) or call 1-800-458-2772 for more information or to purchase any of these products.

# YOU SPRING 2018

## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



Operating in one accord is not just a biblical phenomenon but also a reality. Over a three-day period, a dynamic team of a dozen pastors, preachers, ministers of Christian education, higher educators, and church leaders developed the Spring 2018 lesson outlines for YOU. The first-of-its-kind conference, the ingenious strategy promotes unity and a sense of ownership while undergirding the evolution of YOU as an easy-to-use, relevant, and biblically strong Bible study resource for small and large groups.

We were honored to have Greenforest Community Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia, serve as the host church for the conference, held June 20–22, 2017. Senior Pastor Emory Berry, Executive Pastor Rev. Kamau Welcher, Director of Christian Education Rev. Diann Phillips Ash, and Min. Marie Broughton, Young Adult Leader, served on the conference team. Greenforest has used the YOU curriculum for nearly a decade.

Additional participants included Dr. Mark Croston (YOU General Editor); Dr. Billie Cox (Senior Pastor, Macedonia Baptist Church); Min. Birdie Presley (New Life Church); Rev. Carl Johnson (Director of Christian Education, Peace Baptist Church); Min. Brenda Croston (Educator and Bible study teacher); Dr. Albertine Marshall (Director of Christian Education, Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church); Rev. Bianca Howard (Children and Youth Minister, Zion Baptist Church-Marietta); Min. Janet Cutter (New Life Church); and Rev. Antoine Wright (Lawyer and Christian Educator, Zion Baptist Church-Marietta). Beverly Sonnier (YOU Content Editor) served as the conference facilitator. Each participant brought a fresh perspective along with biblical insightfulness to the conference that will potentially impact the lives of countless people for Christ. And for that the YOU team is grateful and thankful!



# Unit 1

## Withholding Nothing



### A Bible Study on Making Christ Lord of Your Life

In some families recipes get passed down from generation to generation. For example, my wife has a great recipe for boiled custard that she got from her grandmother years ago. Maybe the recipe is different in your family, but the feelings are similar. It's something special and something you would never want to alter. You follow the directions exactly as they are written because you want it to turn out just right. That's kind of how the lordship of Jesus works in our lives. He doesn't want us to hold anything back from His rule and reign. He wants us to include everything that's appropriate—which is everything we are. If we

hold anything back, things will get messed up quickly!

In this unit, "Withholding Nothing," you'll spend four weeks in the Book of Colossians, examining some key biblical teachings about how Jesus' being Lord should have an impact on every area of our lives. Paul was clear about Jesus' right to be the ultimate authority over our lives. But here's the thing—each of us still gets to choose. These four lessons are going to encourage you to make Him Lord in everything you say, think, or do. They're going to challenge you to withhold nothing.

# No One like the Lord

**Background Passage:** Colossians 1:1-23

**Lesson Passages:** Colossians 1:3-6,13-18

**The Question:** What makes Jesus Lord?

**The Point:** Jesus has the right to be Lord.

## LESSON PASSAGES COLOSSIANS 1:3-6,13-18

<sup>3</sup> We always thank God, the Father of our **a** Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup> for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints <sup>5</sup> because of the \* hope reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope in the word of truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God's grace.

.....

<sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the **b** domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

<sup>14</sup> In him we have \* redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

<sup>16</sup> For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—

all things have been created through him and for him.

<sup>17</sup> He is **c** before all things, and by him all things hold together.

<sup>18</sup> He is also the **d** head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

## KEY WORDS

- a** **Lord:** Because heretics were trying to diminish the person and work of Christ, His lordship was the key issue in the church of Colossae.
- b** **Domain of darkness:** “Power of darkness” (KJV). Biblical writers often contrasted light and darkness as a way to describe the power of God and the power of evil. See Romans 13:11-14; Ephesians 5:6-14; 1 John 2:7-11.
- c** **Before all things:** In ancient thinking, priority of time provided priority of authority. Since Jesus existed before time, He holds all power and authority.
- d** **Head:** Physically, the body moves as the head moves. Spiritually, the church is called to move in tandem with the authority and will of Christ.

For more information about key words (\*), visit the glossary on pages 160–161.

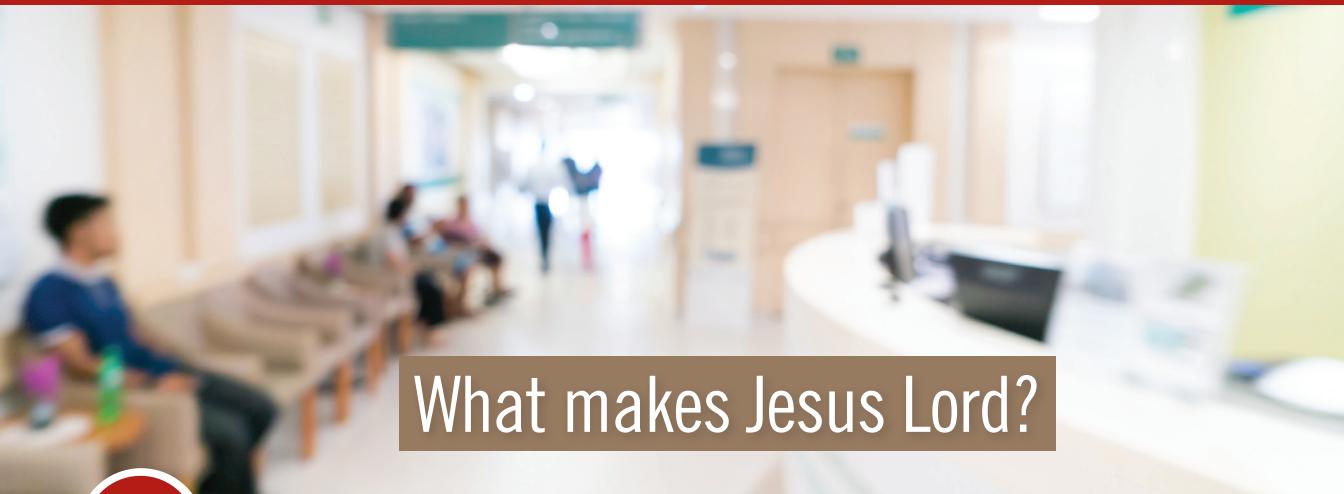
## MEMORY VERSE

**Colossians 1:17**

He is before all things,  
and by him all things  
hold together.

# No One like the Lord

Colossians 1:3-6,13-18



## What makes Jesus Lord?



### UNIT 1 LESSON 1

As a kid, sitting in the doctor's office, I would find a children's magazine with one of my favorite activities. Two photos looked almost identical, but one of the pictures contained a few subtle differences that set it apart from the other. The challenge for my young mind was to find as many of the differences as I could. Now, as an adult, I still face the challenge of seeing where things aren't quite right at times. I hear many opinions on how to live out Jesus in the world. The key is knowing Jesus as He really is.

### Focal Passage Outline

#### THE HOPE—FROM HEAVEN

(Col. 1:3-6)

#### THE HELP—DOWN HERE

(Col. 1:13-14)

#### THE HEAD—BEFORE ALL ELSE

(Col. 1:15-18)

### THE HOPE—FROM HEAVEN COLOSSIANS 1:3-6

**What are some of the silliest arguments you've ever been a part of? How did you resolve those differences?**

Obviously, debates and disagreements aren't anything new. But some disputes are much more serious than others. That was the message Paul was trying to get across in his letter to the believers in Colossae. Paul hadn't established the Colossian church, but when he learned that false teachers were telling them that Jesus was something less than God in flesh, he couldn't let it slide. So, from his house arrest in Rome, he reminded the Colossians who Jesus really was, why He was the hope for salvation, and why He deserved to be not just Savior but also Lord.

**When have you heard something false about Jesus? How did you respond to the false teaching?**

**Read Colossians 1:3-6.** Paul began his defense of the gospel by emphasizing the spiritual connection he had with the believers in

Colossae. While talking about the prayer ministry of the Father, Paul also drew their attention to the Son, calling Jesus **a Lord** (see Key Words, p. 11). He consistently pointed to the truth that Jesus is Lord because that was a key piece of the heretics' argument against the truth of the gospel.

Also, the Colossians had demonstrated a faith in Christ that had resonated all the way to Rome. Paul and his companions—likely Timothy and possibly others—had heard about the steadfastness of their belief and praised them for their commitment to the gospel. This faith, Paul noted, was not rooted simply in wishful thinking but in solid **\* hope** (see Key Words Glossary, pp. 160–161) that can only come through a personal relationship with Jesus.

**What is your faith known for? How far does the impact of your relationship with Jesus reach? Why?**

## THE HELP—DOWN HERE COLOSSIANS 1:13-14

**When has someone sought your help for something? Why did they ask you to help them out with that particular project?**

If you're a parent, you've heard it at least once from the precious lips of your child: "I can do it myself." The problem is, the confidence your child has in his or her own ability doesn't always translate into reality. And usually the child will come back to you seeking your help. When that happens, you might be tempted to say, "I told you so." But, if you're wise, you won't. As Christians, we tend to act the same way sometimes. God offers to work with us to accomplish something great, but we're sure we can handle it all on our own. Then, when we mess up, we go back to Him and beg for help. The situation where this "do it myself" attitude shows up in the lives of so many is the matter of salvation.

**What are some ways people try to "get to God" in their own strength? Why do those attempts always fall short?**

**Read Colossians 1:13-14.** Paul was determined to prove that Jesus deserves to be called **Lord**. In fact, He is the only One who deserves



## Diggin' Deeper



## Gospel

The word *gospel* literally means "good news." For Christ followers, it includes the message Jesus came to earth to share—that the kingdom of God had come and that salvation was available through His death and resurrection. The good news of the gospel means human beings no longer have to settle for slavery to sin. Each person can have a personal relationship with God through Christ and escape the eternal consequences of living in sin.

- When you hear the word *gospel*, what words come to mind? Why?
- Spend some time studying Mark 1:14-20. What does this passage teach you about the message of Jesus? What was His plan for spreading the good news to others?
- How should we respond to the good news of salvation through Jesus? How can we share it?

# No One like the Lord

Colossians 1:3-6,13-18



## Did you know?

In Colossians 1:15, Paul said that Jesus was “the firstborn over all creation.” Several false teachers in his day—and in the centuries since—have tried to use that phrase to prove Jesus was a created being, not an eternal, divine being who deserves to be Lord of all. According to this way of thinking, Jesus may be strong and powerful, but He is (at best) the greatest among equals—and certainly not God. But Paul and other biblical writers clearly stated that Jesus is God’s Son and that being the firstborn over creation refers to the authority He has after taking on human flesh, dying for our sins, and rising from the dead.

- How do people raise questions about Jesus’ true identity in our culture? How can we respond effectively to those doubts?

that designation. And one of the primary reasons He should be Lord is that He also holds another title: Savior. In describing Jesus’ ministry in regard to our salvation, Paul used two key verbs. First, Paul said that Jesus rescued us. We needed someone to rescue us from the **b domain of darkness**—the powerful grip of Satan. And Jesus died to make such a rescue possible. Second, He transformed us out of that darkness into the light of God’s kingdom. Jesus was our only **hope**. His willingness to rescue us and transfer us means we can enjoy the benefits of **\* redemption** (see Key Words Glossary, pp. 160–161). Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross bought our freedom and provided us with redemption.

He also ensured that we are forgiven. While **redemption** related to slavery, **forgiveness** was a financial term. It referred to erasing a debt that had been owed. In the eyes of the law, it was as if the debt had never existed.

**How does Jesus’ role as Savior give Him the authority to be Lord of our lives? Why do we often struggle with that truth?**

## THE HEAD—BEFORE ALL ELSE COLOSSIANS 1:15-18

**Who serves as authority figures in your life? What gives them authority over you?**

Years ago, singer Bob Dylan reminded his listeners that everyone’s “Gotta Serve Somebody.” He was right. No matter our age, gender, race, or social status, we all answer to someone. Each one of us has to submit to someone in authority. Of course, what works in the physical world of human relationships also rings true for our spiritual relationships. We might still be living in the **b domain of darkness** serving the devil. Or, thanks to being transferred by Christ, we may be walking in the kingdom of God. But, one way or another, we’re serving somebody.

**What qualities make a leader worth following? Why are these important to you?**

**Read Colossians 1:15-18.** After carefully explaining what Jesus did, Paul turned to who Jesus is. And, in a nutshell, Jesus is the One

## Live It!

When an athlete is having trouble, the coach offers this advice: get back to basics. In other words, when you're struggling, simplify things. Remember what you did to succeed in the first place and work from there. Spiritually, it's always a good idea to get back to the basics of our faith. And the most basic element of our faith is that Jesus is both Savior and Lord. He created us and died for us, so He has authority over our lives.

Write a letter to Jesus. Thank Him for making and saving you. Ask Him to help you live under His authority every day. Stick that letter in your Bible at Colossians 1. Turn to it often when you struggle with surrendering to His authority in your life.

who holds authority over everything we can imagine and everything we cannot. Paul emphasized Jesus is both completely divine (image of the invisible God) and completely human (firstborn over all creation). He is 100 percent God and 100 percent human at the same time. He is the Author of creation. He rules it all.

Paul also pointed out that Jesus is **Ⓒ before all things** (see Key Words, p. 11). Since He is God, there has never been a time when Jesus did not exist, and the authority he held before creation remains today. Paul also wanted to emphasize Jesus' authority over the church. He said Jesus is the **Ⓓ head** (see Key Words, p. 11) of the body. He holds authority over His church by virtue of His death (which provided redemption and forgiveness) and His resurrection (which defeated sin and death once and for all).

For a church under attack by false teachers who were trying to belittle Jesus, these facts were just the ammunition the Colossians needed to fight back against the heretics and to make sure no one denied Jesus lordship.

**How can you demonstrate Jesus' lordship over your life each day? What impact could that have on the world around you?**

## SO WHAT? How does this apply to me?

We live in a country where respecting the rights of others is a big deal. For decades people lived and died to secure basic civil rights for themselves and their families. Individuals defend their right to property and to privacy. The first ten amendments to our Constitution are even known as The Bill of Rights. Anyone who denies the rights of another draws a special degree of contempt from law-abiding citizens. So, why is it so hard for us to give Jesus His due? He holds all power and authority in the universe, but we often rebel against His plan because we think we can do things better. He has the right to be Lord of our lives. And we have no right to deny Him.

• **What does hope mean to you? How does studying this passage affect your definition?**



- ***How has the transfer from the domain of darkness to the kingdom of light influenced the way you live each day? How can it have a more powerful influence in your life?***
- ***What people or things try to replace Jesus as Lord in your life? What steps can you take to make sure Jesus remains on the throne where He belongs?***

### 1. GOD ALL BY HIMSELF

Exodus 3:14-15

CJ Cummings, an African-American teenager, is considered to be among the strongest young men in the world. As a weight lifter, he earned four world championships and is a weight-lifting record breaker, having lifted more than four hundred pounds. Despite CJ's remarkable power, it cannot compare to the power of Almighty God, whose power is absolute, perfect, and unmatched. The word "Almighty" means "having complete power," that is, missing nothing. God is the one true Higher Power. No one else compares!

***Sovereign Lord, I am awed by Your unparalleled power. Help me remember always that there is no one like You.***

### 2. ONE OF A KIND

John 11:27

Harriet Tubman was the first African-American to be featured in the U.S. Postal Service's Black Heritage stamp series, launched in 1978. Although this stamp is considered rare today, many remain in circulation among collectors.

Unlike rare stamps, however, which can disappear altogether, Jesus will never disappear. We can trust Him to be with us forever. There has never been one like Him, and there never will be. Jesus is not rare; He is one of a kind.

***Savior, I praise You! I am in awe of Your uniqueness. Thank You for walking with me always.***

# DAILY READINGS

### 3. THE JESUS FACTOR

Colossians 1:18

What's the difference between a social club and a church? Jesus! When we choose to forgive and show love no matter what the offense, then we are Christ's church. When we seek the Lord's guidance in every ministry decision, then we are Christ's church. When we honor the Lord by revering and following our anointed leader, the pastor, then we are Christ's church. Church is more than fellowshiping with other believers.

Church is yielding to Jesus Christ, the true Head of the church.

***Lord Jesus, help me yield to You, as Head of the church, so that my joining with others will be much more than just fellowship.***

### 4. SYNERGY

Joshua 6:2-5,20-21

The definition of "synergy" is "an interaction of elements that, when combined, produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the elements." For example, vinegar and baking soda each have multiple uses. But when combined, the resulting chemical can clean drains and cure ailments. Christ's church is like that. When Jesus is with us, we experience synergy. His perfect power, combined with our willingness and God-given abilities, yields exceedingly more than what we could ever do alone.

***Blessed Savior, I am in awe of Your power. Remind me that with You whatever I do together with others is far more than what we can do without You.***

# HOW TO TEACH



## Step 1: Read the Lesson and study the Leader Commentary.



**Unit 1**  
**Withholding Nothing**

**A Bible Study on Making Christ Lord of Your Life**

In some families recipes get passed down from generation to generation. For example, my wife has a great recipe for boiled custard that she got from her grandmother years ago. Maybe the recipe is different in your family, but the feelings are similar. It's something special and something you would never want to alter. You follow the directions exactly as they are written because you want it to turn out just right. That's kind of how the lordship of Jesus works in our lives. He doesn't want us to hold anything back from His rule and reign. He wants us to include everything that's appropriate—which is everything we are. If we

**UNIT 1, LESSON 1**

**No One like the Lord**  
Background Passage: Colossians 1:1-13  
Lesson Passages: Colossians 1:3-6, 13-18

**The Question: What makes Jesus Lord?**  
**The Point: Jesus has the right to be Lord.**

**LESSON PASSAGES**  
COLOSSIANS 1:3-6, 13-18

✦ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, "for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints" because of the "hope reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope in the word of truth, the gospel "that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God's grace.

.....

✦ He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

✦ In him we have " redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

.....

✦ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

✦ For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him.

.....

✦ He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

**KEY WORDS**

- ✦ **Lord:** Because he is the one who created the universe and who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, he is the one who has the right to be called Lord.
- ✦ **domain of darkness:** "Power of darkness" (NIV). Biblical writers often contrasted light and darkness as a way to describe the control of God and Satan. See Romans 13:12-14; Ephesians 5:6-14; John 1:1-11.
- ✦ **Image of the invisible:** In ancient thinking, people of authority possessed a visible image. Since Jesus revealed himself as the image of God, he holds authority and power.
- ✦ **Firstborn:** Physically, the body of Jesus was the firstborn. Spiritually, the church is called to honor its founder with the authority and will of Christ.

For more information about key words, visit [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com) page 100-101.

**MEMORY VERSE**

Colossians 1:17  
He is before all things and by him all things hold together.

**LEADER COMMENTARY**  
UNIT 1, LESSON 1 (pp. 11-15)

**No One like the Lord**  
Lesson Passages: Colossians 1:3-6, 13-18  
The Question: What makes Jesus Lord?  
The Point: Jesus has the right to be Lord.

This commentary is designed to help you think about the question, "What makes Jesus Lord?" and drive home this one truth: Jesus has the right to be Lord.

**FOCUS ON THESE POINTS**

**The Hope—From Heaven (Col. 1:3-6)**  
Most of Paul's letters are filled with statements about grace, reminding those he loved of the gift he had not met them) that he was consistently filling them with the Father. And he was not alone. The "we" in verse 3 includes his associates and traveling companions. Timothy was a member of this group, along with others who were ministering to him in Rome.

Paul also included a reference to another common thread that runs through his epistles: gratitude. He often expressed thankfulness for what God had done in his life, but he also took time in his letters to express gratitude for his brothers and sisters in Christ. The truth of the gospel stood in stark contrast to the history of false teachers that had been creeping into the congregation. The false teachers believed salvation took hard work and self-sacrifice. But grace says that salvation only comes from God's unmerited favor on our behalf; verses 13-18 zero in on who he is. As noted, the Colossians weren't dealing with a subtle infiltration of heresy. These false teachers did not encourage the church to forget Jesus completely. Rather, they wanted to downgrade his position in the church and convince the Colossians that other things were just as worthy of their devotion.

First, Paul emphasized Jesus' equality with God. By using the "image" of God and the "firstborn over all creation," Jesus was both God in human flesh and humanity dependent on the heavenly Father.

Next, Paul highlighted Jesus as Creator and Sustainer of all things. He was the one who created the universe and sustains it. Paul encouraged the church to remember that Jesus is the one who created and sustains the universe. Finally, Paul argued for Jesus' authority over the church. Because He is "head" of the church, everything belongs to Him and should be done in His name.

**Need more commentary/articles to increase your understanding?**  
Visit [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com)

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**BEFORE YOU TEACH**  
FOR UNIT 1, LESSON 1 (pp. 11-15)

**STEP 1: PREPARE YOUR TEACHING ENVIRONMENT.**  
There are many ways to prepare for a lesson, but one that is often overlooked is preparing your learning space. Take time to examine your class space. Remove any outdated posters or teaching aids. Make the teaching environment a comfortable place—a place where learners look forward to coming. It can make a big difference.

**STEP 2: EVALUATE COMMON FALSE TEACHINGS.**  
While Bible teachings are nothing new, the answers for lessons to creep into our lives are quicker today than ever before. Social media and increased levels of communication can spread false teaching and effectively take time to become familiar with some common false beliefs people promote in our culture. Identify how they try to diminish the authority of Jesus or remove His completely.

**STEP 3: CONTACT MISSING LEARNERS.**  
This is the first week of a new unit, which is a great time to reach out to learners who have been missing in recent weeks. Make a phone call or send an email to let them know they have been missed. Talk to them about the theme of this unit and encourage them to come find out more about what Paul had to say to the church in Colosse.

**STEP 4: READ THE BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATOR ARTICLES.**  
For each lesson in this unit, you can find additional help from background articles taken from the archives of *Biblical Illustrator*. For example, the article for this lesson considers what it means for Jesus to be "firstborn." You can find these articles by visiting [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com), finding the Leaders Resources tab, and clicking the DOWN ARROW icon for each lesson.

**LOOK BACK**  
As we begin this new unit about allowing Christ to be Lord over our lives, take a moment to review the last unit about doing so in different. Remind learners that God calls us to live in holiness because His love, His grace, and His holiness attracts others to Him. Draw a connection between holiness and Jesus' lordship. Point out that one way to reflect holiness is to allow Jesus to have authority over every corner of our lives and to follow His plan for the future that is ours. Transition into today's lesson.

**YOU OBJECT LESSON**

**A YARDBSTICK**  
Obtain a yardstick and bring it to class. Ask: How many inches are in a yard? How do we know? Discuss responses. Affirm that we know a yard has three feet or 36 inches because there are three feet in a yard and each foot has twelve inches. Say: We have established certain measurements or our culture that are accepted without question. Encourage learners to suggest a few others. (Examples: four quarters in a gallon, one hundred yards on a football field, seven days in a week, and thirty.) Point out that these measurements have authority because they have been tested and approved. Ask: How do you know the authority of Jesus? Emphasize that Jesus was tested during His time on earth, and He passed every test with flying colors. Say: He really does deserve to be Lord of our lives.

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**Step 2: Prepare to teach an exciting lesson using the Before You Teach page for each lesson.**

**Step 3: Use the Teaching Plan for each lesson to prepare and facilitate an in-depth discussion of the lesson passage. Don't forget that you can cut out the Teaching Plan if you want to be on the same page as members of your group.**

**NO ONE LIKE THE LORD (TEACHING PLAN)**  
FOR UNIT 1, LESSON 1 (pp. 11-15)

**INTRODUCTION**

Once learners have settled into their seats, play Miranda Will's song "Nobody like You, Lord," which can be found at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2\\_G8R188R8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_G8R188R8). Emphasize that there really is no one else like Jesus. Because of the hope He gives, the help He provides, and the authority He holds, He deserves to be Lord of our lives.

To introduce the lesson, give each learner an index card and a pen. Direct them to write three statements about themselves on the card: two things that are true and one thing that is false. After they are done, collect the cards and read one out of them. Encourage the other learners to figure out which of the three statements is a lie. Do this for each of the cards in the pile as time allows. Ask: What steps did you take to decide what was true and what was false? Discuss responses. Ask: How do you go about making these kinds of decisions in other areas of life?

Point out that people often try to misinterpret Jesus, just as people have done for centuries. Emphasize how important it is to our faith to know who Jesus really is, not just what he has done. Share that today's lesson is the first of four from the Book of Colossians and reminds us that Jesus is Lord over everything, and that should include our lives.

**DIG INTO THE TEXT**

**THE HOPE—FROM HEAVEN**  
COLOSSIANS 1:3-6

- ✦ Direct a volunteer to read the first paragraph and question under "The Hope—From Heaven" (p. 12). Point out that we all get stuck in disagreements, and often the outcomes aren't that important. Say: But sometimes taking a stand can be incredibly important. Encourage learners to share issues where taking a stand for their rights really matters.
- ✦ Allow a volunteer to read about Colossians 1:3-6. Use information from the Leader Commentary (p. 105) to set the context for the Book of Colossians. Note that

Paul was under house arrest in Rome and knew the Colossians by reputation only, but he was concerned about false teachers causing them problems.

- ✦ Direct learners' attention to the word "Lord" (v. 3). Ask: What do you think of when you hear that word? Discuss responses. Note the definition for *My Word* (p. 10). Say: The false teachers were saying Jesus really wasn't God and really wasn't Lord. So Paul was setting up an argument for the whole book early on by emphasizing His truth about Jesus.

**THE HELP—DOWN HERE**  
COLOSSIANS 1:13-14

- ✦ Ask: When was the last time you moved or helped someone else move? What was the hardest part of that process? Discuss responses. Agree that moving can be stressful and frustrating, and we're usually thankful when we get settled into our new home.
- ✦ Read Colossians 1:13-14 aloud and encourage learners to listen for the "moving" story in these verses. Ask: Who got moved, where did they come from, where did they go, and who moved them? (Answer: Jesus moved us. From the domain of darkness into God's kingdom.) Ask: Why is that such a big deal? Discuss responses.
- ✦ Encourage a volunteer to read the final question under "The Help—Down Here" (p. 15). Use information

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## Step 4: Visit [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com) for more leader commentary, articles to enhance your understanding of the lesson passage, and a midweek plan that can be adapted for midweek or worship services.

# BEFORE YOU TEACH

FOR UNIT 1, LESSON 1 (pp. 11–15)

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## BACK

As we begin this new unit about allowing Christ to be Lord over our lives, take a moment to review the last unit about daring to be different. Remind learners that God calls us to live in holiness because He is holy. Plus, our holiness attracts others to Him. Draw a connection between holy living and Jesus’ lordship. Point out that one way to reflect holiness is to allow Jesus to have authority over every corner of our lives and to follow His plan for life rather than our own. Transition into today’s lesson.

# YOU OBJECT LESSON



## A YARDSTICK

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## INTRODUCTION

Once learners have settled into their seats, play Miranda Willis’s song “Nobody like You, Lord,” which can be found at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L\\_2gSB1h8Ks](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_2gSB1h8Ks). Emphasize that there really is no one else like Jesus. **Say:** *Because of the hope He gives, the help He provides, and the authority He holds, He deserves to be Lord of our lives.*

To introduce the lesson, give each learner an index card and a pen. Direct them to write three statements about themselves on the card: two things that are true and one thing that is false. After they are done, collect the cards and read one of them. Encourage the other learners to figure out which of the three statements is a fake. Do this for each of the cards in the pile as time allows. **Ask:** *What steps did you take to decide what was true and what wasn’t?* Discuss responses. **Ask:** *How do you go about making those kinds of decisions in other areas of life?*

Point out that people often try to misrepresent Jesus, just as people have done for centuries. Emphasize how important it is to our faith to know who Jesus really is, not just what He has done. Share that today’s lesson is the first of four from the Book of Colossians and reminds us that Jesus is Lord over everything, and that should include our lives.

## DIG INTO THE TEXT

### THE HOPE—FROM HEAVEN COLOSSIANS 1:3-6

- Direct a volunteer to read the first paragraph and question under “The Hope—from Heaven” (p. 12). Point out that we all get stuck in disagreements, and often the outcome isn’t that important. **Say:** *But sometimes taking a stand can be incredibly important.* Encourage learners to share issues where taking a stand for what’s right really matters.
- **Allow a volunteer to read aloud Colossians 1:3-6.** Use information from the Leader Commentary (p. 105) to set the context for the Book of Colossians. Note that Paul was under house arrest in Rome and knew the Colossians by reputation only, but he was concerned about false teachers causing them problems.
- Direct learners’ attention to the word “Lord” (v. 3). **Ask:** *What do you think of when you hear that word?* **Discuss responses.** Note the definition for Key Word **Lord** (p. 11). **Say:** *The false teachers were saying Jesus really wasn’t God and really wasn’t Lord. So Paul was setting up his argument for the whole book early on by emphasizing this truth about Jesus.*

### THE HELP—DOWN HERE COLOSSIANS 1:13-14

- **Ask:** *When was the last time you moved or helped someone else move? What was the hardest part of that process?* **Discuss responses.** Agree that moving can be stressful and frustrating, but we’re usually thankful when we get settled into our new home. verses. **Ask:** *Who got moved, where did they come from, where did they go, and who moved them?* (**Answer:** Jesus moved us from the domain of darkness into God’s kingdom.) **Ask:** *Why is that such a big deal?* **Discuss responses.**
- Read Colossians 1:13-14 aloud and encourage learners to listen for the “moving” story in these
- Encourage a volunteer to read the final question under “The Help—Down Here” (p. 15). Use information

# NO ONE LIKE THE LORD (TEACHING PLAN)

FOR UNIT 1, LESSON 1 (pp. 11–15)

from the student book and the Leader Commentary to explain the significance of **redemption** and “forgiveness.” Then invite a volunteer to read aloud the last paragraph under this heading on page 15.

- Share that Jesus’ role as Savior gives Him the right to be Lord of our lives. Emphasize that what He has done for us should motivate us to live in a way that honors Him.

## THE HEAD—BEFORE ALL ELSE COLOSSIANS 1:15-18

- **Read aloud the first paragraph about Bob Dylan under “The Head—Before All Else” (p. 14).** Discuss the response question about the qualities of a good leader (p. 14). As learners suggest such qualities, make a list on the board or on a large sheet of paper. **Ask:** *How does Jesus measure up to each of these categories?* Talk with learners about their answers. **Invite a volunteer to read aloud Colossians 1:15-18.**
- Encourage learners to share the different ways Paul described Jesus in these verses. Use information from the student book and the Leader Commentary to explain how Jesus fulfills each title He is given. For additional information on Jesus as “firstborn,” read the *Biblical Illustrator* article for this lesson. Go to [www.lifeway.com/you](http://www.lifeway.com/you) and click on DOWNLOADABLES for Unit 1, Lesson 1, under the Leader Resource tab.

## SO WHAT? HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO ME?

Whether we admit it or not, we all like control. We all like the feeling of knowing exactly what’s going to happen and exactly how it will play out. But there are a couple of problems with that. First, we can never completely be in control of things. Something will always pop up and wreck our perfect plans. But, even more important, we’re lousy at controlling things well. When we try to handle things on our own, we only make a mess. And the more we try to fix it, the worse things get. That’s because God never designed us to be in control. Jesus holds authority over everything. He is the one who made it all and holds everything together. When we allow Him to be Lord, things won’t always be easy, but we can rest knowing He’s in control.

- *Where do you see the “domain of darkness” at*

*work in the world today? How can you bring light to those situations?*

- *Read through the description of Jesus in verses 15-18 again. How does this encourage you to trust Jesus more deeply than before? How can you overcome the obstacles that try to hinder you from trusting Him?*
- *What people or things try to replace Jesus as Lord in your life? What steps can you take to make sure Jesus remains on the throne where He belongs?*

## CLOSE THE SESSION

*Point out that Jesus’ authority rests in His identity. Say:* The fact that Jesus is God—Creator, Sustainer, and head of everything—gives Him authority over our lives. *Acknowledge that we will struggle throughout our lives to put Christ first in everything we do and over everything we are. What we can do, though, is commit to growing in the knowledge of God, understanding who Christ is, and living differently because of what Christ has done. Close, praying that learners will live out Jesus’ authority each day and point others to Him as they do.*

## No One like the Lord

**Lesson Passages:** Colossians 1:3-6, 13-18

**The Question:** What makes Jesus Lord?

**The Point:** Jesus has the right to be Lord.

*This commentary is designed to help you think about the question, “What makes Jesus Lord?” and drive home this one truth: Jesus has the right to be Lord.*

### FOCUS ON THESE POINTS

#### **The Hope—from Heaven (Col. 1:3-6)**

Most of Paul’s letters are dotted with statements about prayer, reminding those he loved (even if he had not met them) that he was consistently lifting them to the Father. And he was not alone. The “we” in verse 3 includes his associates and traveling companions. Timothy was likely a member of this group, along with others who were ministering to him in Rome.

Paul also included a reference to another common thread that runs through his epistles: gratitude. He often expressed thankfulness for what God had done in his life, but he also took time in his letters to express gratitude for his brothers and sisters in Christ. The truth of the gospel stood in stark contrast to the heresy of false teachers that had been creeping into the congregation. The false teachers believed salvation took hard work and self-sacrifice. But grace says that salvation only comes from God’s unmerited favor and unquenchable love.

Paul had been all over the Roman Empire, so he could assure the Colossians their work was part of God’s master plan across the first-century map. The same Father who had done incredible works in them was also working in cities and villages across the known world. Walls that represented gender, social status, and ethnicity were being torn down for God’s glory.

#### **The Help—from Above (Col. 1:13-14)**

In verse 13, Paul emphasized two verbs that reveal the actions of Christ in regard to our salvation. First, the apostle stated that Jesus rescued us. With this Paul reminded readers that salvation only comes through Him. He did for us what we could not do for ourselves. We needed a Rescuer, and God provided that through the work of His Son.

The second verb in verse 13 demonstrates how we got from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of light. Through this ministry of rescuing and transferring, we are granted redemption in Christ. The idea of redemption in the first century would have been associated most closely with the slave trade. Slaves sometimes received their freedom after a third party paid the price for them. This is exactly what Jesus did for us. He paid the price for our sin so that He could grant us the freedom to become citizens of God’s kingdom.

Paul also noted that we have been forgiven, which is closely associated with redemption. “Forgiveness” is a financial term that indicated a debt had been paid in full. In our case Jesus paid a debt we could not pay for ourselves. And because that debt has been canceled, God no longer sees it when He looks at us.

Redemption and forgiveness, taken together, emphasize the satisfaction of both God’s righteous judgment (that demanded a price be paid) and His mercy (that generously restores those who accept the payment on their behalf).

#### **The Head—Before All Else (Col. 1:15-18)**

While verses 13-14 describe what Christ has done on our behalf, verses 15-18 zero in on who He is. As noted, the Colossian believers were dealing with a subtle infiltration of heresy. These false teachers did not encourage the church to forget Jesus completely. Rather, they wanted to downgrade His position in the church and convince the Colossians that other things were just as worthy of their devotion.

First, Paul emphasized Jesus’ equality with God. By being the “image” of God and the “firstborn over all creation,” Jesus was both God in human flesh and humanity depending on the heavenly Father.

Next, Paul highlighted Jesus as Creator. Phrases such as “by him,” “through him,” and “for him” point to Jesus’ superiority over all creation—both physical and spiritual forces. Finally, Paul argued for Jesus’ authority over the church. Because He is “head” of the church, everything believers do should begin and end with Him.



Need more commentary/articles to increase your understanding?

Visit [www.LifeWay.com/YOU](http://www.LifeWay.com/YOU).

# KEY WORDS GLOSSARY

The first page of every lesson provides an overview of the lesson, including the lesson title, lesson passages, and key words from the biblical text. The key words marked with a \* have been explained more fully in this glossary.

**Amnon's death:** After he raped his half sister Tamar (2 Sam. 13:1-20), he was later killed by Absalom. This incident marked the beginning of the decline of David's family following his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah. (Unit 3, Lesson 3)

**Cast Lots:** The lot was a sardonyx stone the ancient Israelites used to make impartial, unbiased decisions on important matters. This practice would be like throwing dice or flipping a coin today. (Unit 3, Lesson 1)

**Continue:** To persist in basic spiritual disciplines on a regular basis that can help you continue to walk in the lordship of Christ. (Unit 1, Lesson 3)

**Denarii:** The plural of denarius (containing ten), a Roman silver coin in Jesus' time, worth about fifteen cents. It was the principal silver coin of the Roman commonwealth. From the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, it would seem that a denarius was then the ordinary pay for a day's labor. (Unit 3, Lesson 2)

**Disciples:** Although the entire group here isn't named, we know that seven of the twelve disciples were fishermen by trade: Andrew, Peter, James, and John were apparently business partners (Luke 5:10). Philip, Thomas, and Nathanael were fishermen as well. (Unit 2, Lesson 5)

**Elements of the world:** A possible reference to spirit beings, all of whom were created by Christ and were subject to His lordship (Col. 2:8,20). (Unit 1, Lesson 3)

**Exasperate:** To provoke or irritate. Exasperation can break a child's spirit and make the child question parental love. (Unit 1, Lesson 4)

**Gate:** Sheepfolds had only one entrance, designed for the safety and protection of the sheep. (Unit 2, Lesson 3)

**Geshur:** Place-name meaning "bridge." Small Aramean city-state between Bashan and Hermon. It served as a buffer between Israel and Aram. David married Maacah, daughter of the king of Geshur, who became mother of Absalom (2 Sam. 3:3). (Unit 3, Lesson 3)

**Greater:** Not better, but broader. We cannot do better miracles than our Master (John 13:16), but He does enable us to expand His impact around the globe and throughout time. (Unit 2, Lesson 4)

**Hates:** To follow Christ means to love Him supremely to the point that one's affections on earth would seem like hatred by comparison. See also Luke 14:26. (Unit 2, Lesson 1)

**Hope:** Rather than wishful thinking, Christian hope includes a steadfast anticipation and assurance of what is to come. (Unit 1, Lesson 1)

**Iniquity:** A particular deviation from moral virtue; a sin or crime; wickedness; any act of injustice. (Unit 3, Lesson 4)

**Keeps:** We cannot say we love Jesus if we do not know and obey His commands. (Unit 2, Lesson 4)

**Lambs:** A reference to the new, growing followers of Jesus who would need someone to lead and care tenderly for them. Though more mature, the sheep in the new church would need similar pastoral leadership and care. (Unit 2, Lesson 5)

**Laodicea:** A town about eleven miles from Colossae and an important commercial crossroad. Paul wanted his letter read to them as well as in Colossae (Col. 4:16). For more on the Laodicean church, see Revelation 3:15-16. (Unit 1, Lesson 2)

**Mystery:** The false teachers believed the mystery of salvation was solved through special knowledge. Paul knew it was revealed in Christ alone. (Unit 1, Lesson 2)

**Name:** To pray in Jesus' name means to pray what He desires, not necessarily what we desire. (Unit 2, Lesson 4)

**New:** To love was one of the oldest commands in Scripture (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 19:19). However, the love Christians show one another would be new because it would have the ultimate expression of love—the cross—as its standard. (Unit 2, Lesson 1)

**Old self:** The Greek word for “old” (*palaios*) relates to things from the past and out of date. This stands in contrast to the wording for “new” (*kainos*), which points to something of higher and improved quality. (Unit 1, Lesson 4)

**Put on:** What are some ways you can “put on” the lordship of Christ each day? What are some things you need first to “put off” to make that happen? (Unit 1, Lesson 4)

**Redemption:** Along with forgiveness, redemption satisfies both God's righteous judgment (a price being paid) and mercy (restoration for those who accept His payment). (Unit 1, Lesson 1)

**Rooster:** Strutting, crowing bird. Relates to Peter's denial of Christ. Jesus warned Peter that before the rooster crowed twice before that night was over, Peter would deny Him three times. (Unit 2, Lesson 1)

**Settle accounts:** In Jewish parables a king was often used to symbolize God's settling accounts represented His divine judgment. (Unit 3, Lesson 2)

**Snake:** Jesus draws a comparison to an Old Testament story from Numbers 21:4-9, something Nicodemus would have known. The Israelites had to look at the snake in faith to be healed physically; Nicodemus needed to look to Jesus in faith to be healed spiritually. (Unit 2, Lesson 2)

**Stumble:** To make a slip, mistake, or blunder, especially a sinful one: a moral lapse or error. (Unit 3, Lesson 1)

**Thief:** An immediate reference to the Pharisees who were looking after their own interests, not those of the people. Also, a possible reference to Satan, who was at work in the Pharisees' self-righteousness. (Unit 2, Lesson 3)

**Water:** Likely a reference to physical birth. Jesus teaches in this passage that salvation comes by believing, not by being baptized. See John 3:16. (Unit 2, Lesson 2)

**Woe:** An exclamation of grief or distress (Unit 3, Lesson 1)

**You:** In Greek this word is plural. Nicodemus isn't the only one in need of spiritual rebirth; all people must be born again. (Unit 1 Lesson 2)

## COMING NEXT QUARTER



### UNIT 1 GROW

#### The Truth Starts Here

- Lesson 1 I'm No Accident  
Genesis 1:1,26-28; 2:7,9,18,22-24
- Lesson 2 When Sin Creeps In  
Genesis 4:1-10
- Lesson 3 Thriving in the Midst of a Cultural Storm  
Genesis 6:5-9; 7:1,13-16
- Lesson 4 Where Do We Go from Here?  
Genesis 9:7; 11:1-9



### UNIT 2 CONNECT

#### No Doubt About It!

- Lesson 1 Am I a Christian?  
1 John 4:2-8,13-15
- Lesson 2 He Is the One  
Matthew 11:1-9,20-21
- Lesson 3 Does God Care?  
Psalm 34:15-22
- Lesson 4 You Can't Lose  
Romans 8:9-11,35-39
-  Lesson 5 I've Got a Testimony (GO! Emphasis)  
John 9:7-9,13-17,24-25



### UNIT 3 GROW

#### Final Destinations

- Lesson 1 Don't Go There!  
Luke 16:19-25,27-28,31
- Lesson 2 On My Way  
Mark 10:17-27
- Lesson 3 "Heaven Is for Real"  
Revelation 21:1-4,10-12,18,21
- Lesson 4 It's Reward Time  
2 Corinthians 5:1-10

\* Subject to change

## MEET THE WRITERS

**Bob Bunn** wrote Unit 1 Learner, Leader, Object Lessons, and Leader Commentaries. He is a seasoned Christian-publishing writer and editor. Bob holds degrees from Liberty University, Ohio University, and Southern Seminary. He teaches youth in his local church. Bob and his wife, Mary, are the proud parents of Bobby, Caleb, and Lora.

**Justin Smith** wrote Unit 2 Learner, Leader, Object Lessons, and Leader Commentaries. He teaches English and Bible at a public high school in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. His wife, Marsha, is the love of his life; they are the proud parents of two daughters, Caroline and Kate. Belle Aire Baptist Church has been his church home since childhood; he currently serves there as a deacon and Sunday School teacher.

**Kelley Sawyer** wrote Unit 3 Learner, Leader, Object Lessons, and Leader Commentaries. An accomplished writer, she serves in ministry at the Sign of the Dove Church International and is married to her best friend and soul mate, George. They have three children and one grandchild.

**Darchelle Garner** wrote Units 1, 2, and 3 Daily Readings. She is a member of The People's Community Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Maryland, where she serves as newsletter editor, media ministry writer, and serves with the missions ministry. Darchelle holds an economics degree from Brown University and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University.

**Terrence Chandler-Harrison** wrote the downloadable Midweek Sermon Starters, available at [www.lifeway.com/YOU](http://www.lifeway.com/YOU). He serves as senior pastor of The Liberty Church, Clarksville, Tennessee, and as an associate professor of Bible and theology, American Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee.