

PARENT GUIDE

Lesson 7.3: Christ

JOURNEY

IDENTITY

► SCRIPTURE READING

- » Acts 19; Ephesians 1–6
- » Colossians 1:1–2:15
- » Philemon
- » Acts 21–22

SUMMARY:

God used Paul's careful attention and spiritual investment in the Ephesians during his third missionary journey to radically transform the area. In two years *all the residents of Asia* heard the message of Jesus Christ (Acts 19:10).

Despite being imprisoned in Jerusalem at the end of his third missionary journey, Paul's ministry during this season was so fruitful it extends to us today through letters he wrote to the Churches of Ephesus and Colossae.

- In **Ephesians**, Paul emphasized the believer's need to be "in Christ," outlining the importance of Christ for their spiritual wealth (Ephesians 1–3), walk (4:1–6:9) and warfare (6:10–24).
- In **Colossians**, Paul addressed a heresy threatening the Church by reminding believers Who Jesus is and what He had done for them (and has done for us), affirming that He is all the believer needs.
- In the book of **Philemon**, Paul encouraged his friend to forgive Onesimus, a runaway slave and new brother in Christ, by reminding him that Christ forgave his spiritual debt so he should do the same.

The Prison Epistles highlight how believers must be rooted and growing in Christ, making Him the center of their faith, affection, devotion and identity. *Solus Christus*. Christ alone.

► MEMORY VERSE OPTIONS

- » Colossians 1:28–29*
- » Philemon 1:6
- » Hebrews 11:27–29

► IDENTITY INSIGHT

In Jesus, I have everything I need. His lordship helps me grow in faith and fellowship so I can gladly serve Him in every situation.

► IMPORTANT IDEAS:

OCCULT: matters that involve the action, influence or secret knowledge of supernatural or supernormal powers⁸

HERESY: a religious opinion or doctrine contrary to the truth⁹

BOND SERVANT: a slave who serves out of love (Deuteronomy 15:12–18; Ephesians 6:5–9); what several of Jesus' followers considered themselves to be (Mary, in Luke 1:38; Paul, in Romans 1:1; and other apostles)

FORGIVENESS: an act of pardon; God's complete removal of all estrangement and alienation between Himself and a believer, completely restoring the relationship He had with them before the sin took place¹⁰

FELLOWSHIP: a group of equals or friends; a mutual sharing of what is held in common¹¹