

Curriculum



SAMPLE

Colossians: Against the Tide

The Pleasant Life
The Great Life
The Stable Life
The Thoughtful Life
The Protected Life
The Focused Life
The Peaceful Life
The Balanced Life
The Prayerful Life

A sample of the Colossians curriculum begins on the following page.



LEARN: Overview

Biblical Business Training (“BBT”) equips people to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and empowers leaders in a small-group Bible study setting to apply Biblical principles at work. Our mission is [Faith for Work](#) – and our vision is [Leadership for Life!](#)

To find out more, visit www.B-B-T.org.



Curriculum: The BBT 1-2-3™ Format

BBT curriculum is rooted in Scripture and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3™* format enables the group to have a consistent Biblical basis for discussion.



1 Agenda – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



2 Group Leader Guide – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



3 Recap – Encourages community and application



LIVE: Sample Colossians

In this 9-part study, learn what the supremacy of Christ has to do with your life at work. Topics include:

1. **The Pleasant Life**
2. **The Great Life**
3. **The Stable Life**
4. **The Thoughtful Life**
5. **The Protected Life**
6. **The Focused Life**
7. **The Peaceful Life**
8. **The Balanced Life**
9. **The Prayerful Life**

No book is needed.



LEAD: Start a small-group Bible study

Start leading today! [Learn more.](#)



PRAYERS



LEARN

Ego and Unity

When Jimmy Johnson took over as coach of the Dallas Cowboys, they had been on a downward spiral. But within a few years he rebuilt the organization and took them to the Super Bowl – and won. The next year, he did it again! After winning his second Super Bowl, what did owner Jerry Jones do? Give Jimmy a raise? No, he fired him! Together they had rebuilt the Cowboy dynasty and had accomplished the seemingly impossible, but they couldn't get along. Winning wasn't compensation enough, and Texas wasn't big enough for both men's massive egos, so they parted company. This serves to remind us that even when things are going well, it can be hard to maintain unity.

Our Sinful Nature

Much of the Christian life comes down to how well we get along with other people. Scripture makes it plain that God places tremendous value on unity, which Paul stressed repeatedly throughout his letters. The ability to get along with others requires a great deal of effort. Our natural tendency is *not* to get along – when things are going great. As you go through life, some people will rub you the wrong way and there will be times when you rub someone else the wrong way. Getting along with others may not always be easy, but it is possible. It happens when you make an effort by letting the peace of Christ rule in your heart.

Unity God's Way

God wants us to live together in unity. He wants us to take the high road, remembering that our actions are more important than our feelings. This lesson will look at [Colossians 3:12-17](#) and help us understand how to get along with difficult people. If you are on the receiving end of someone's cold shoulder, these principles will help you defuse difficult situations. And if you're on the giving end, we'll talk about how you can stop the cycle and make things right. Paul will help us remember that our identity should determine how we act. We are God's chosen people, dearly loved by Him and expected to live holy lives. Does your life reflect this identity?



LIVE

Discussion questions: Read the text and scriptures below and prepare to answer the questions.

1. Read [Colossians 3:12-13](#). What does it mean to bear with each other? Does the fact that you have been chosen by God affect your actions?
2. Read [Micah 6:8](#). What does this verse tell you about how to treat others in the workplace?
3. Read [Luke 6:27-28](#) and re-read [Colossians 3:12](#). Based on these verses, which is more important – your feelings or your actions?
4. Read [Colossians 3:14-17](#). How can “clothing yourself with love” protect you from harmful words and what do these verses say about your own words?
5. Read [Isaiah 26:3](#), [John 14:1](#) and [Philippians 4:7](#). What promises are made in these passages that can help you gain peace-filled relationships?

Application Question: Peace and work can sometimes feel like oxymorons. How will you find a peaceful life in your workplace this week?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



PRAYERS

Opening Prayer & Prayer Requests



LEARN

Before you begin, read the AGENDA LEARN introduction together and review the APPLICATION QUESTION from the previous meeting's RECAP.



LIVE

Discussion Questions: Have someone read each Bible verse aloud and then ask the corresponding question. Be sure everyone has enough time to find the Scripture before the verse is read.

- 1) Read [Colossians 3:12-13](#). What does it mean to bear with each other? Does the fact that you have been chosen by God affect your actions?



To bear with each other is to take into consideration our own faults when seeing the faults of others. This helps us remember to forgive others as freely as Christ forgives us. Paul reminds us that we are God's chosen people, dearly loved by Him and expected to live holy lives. This is our identity and should determine how we act.



When we relate to other people, we should say to ourselves, "I don't know where this person is spiritually, but I want my attitudes and actions to reflect Christ." We should take the high road to solving the conflict instead of getting even. Taking the high road gets easier when we remember that we are not perfect either. We've made some mistakes, gotten our hands dirty and know exactly what it's like to need forgiveness. We must show each other the same mercy we have been shown by Christ.

Notes:

- 2) Read [Micah 6:8](#). What does this verse tell you about how to treat others in the workplace?



You can please God by doing what is good and right in His sight, dealing fairly with others, showing mercy and learning humility. Each of these are daily challenges in the workplace.



In this verse, "what is good" means what is right in God's eyes. We are required to do what is "right" which is to treat others fairly and keep God's order. "To love mercy" is to show others the same undeserved mercy He shows us. "To walk humbly" is a characteristic Christians strive for – living without pride or arrogance like Jesus. God wants us in a relationship with Him, so he can transform us, allowing us to see and treat others as He does.

Notes:

3) Read [Luke 6:27-28](#) and re-read [Colossians 3:12](#). Based on these verses, which is more important – your feelings or your actions?



Paul used the phrase “clothe yourselves” because sometimes we have to cover our feelings and “put on” the right behavior. Our feelings may be sending us in one direction, but we can clothe ourselves with attitudes and behaviors that move us towards the ways of Jesus. Jesus wants us to understand that it takes a conscious effort to treat our enemies how we want them to treat us.



The Bible never tells us that we will be judged according to our *feelings*. It says we are judged according to our *actions*. We can’t always control the way we feel, but we can control our actions. Does this mean all conflict should be swept under the rug? No. It means that when we deal with conflict, we have to put our own feelings aside and place a layer of holiness between us and the other person. This will allow healing in the relationship rather than destruction.



Facilitate a brief discussion. You might ask, “How can we realistically deal with our feelings toward someone at work who mistreats us? How might changing our actions turn our feelings around?”

Notes:

4) Read [Colossians 3:14-17](#). How can “clothing yourself with love” protect you from harmful words and what do these verses say about your own words?



Keeping Christ in every conversation helps us handle words spoken to you or words you speak. Ask yourself, “What would Jesus say?” either before you speak or before you respond. When you have conflict, you should discuss it with only the person involved and make sure your conversation is filled with words that lift them up instead of tearing them down.



Of all the virtues that Paul lists, he says “above all...love.” He understands that our hearts are where conflict occurs, where our feelings and desires clash – fear and hope, distrust and trust, jealousy and love. Paul says we have to use peace to win our conflicted hearts. This does not mean that suddenly all differences of opinion are eliminated, but instead we are to choose love and work together despite our differences.

Notes:

5) Read [Isaiah 26:3](#), [John 14:1](#) and [Philippians 4:7](#). What promises are made in these passages that can help you gain peace-filled relationships?



Once you experience God’s peace, you will lose all interest in conflict, you will lose any desire to be judgmental, and you will lose the tendency to be on edge.



Look again at [Colossians 3:15](#). The key to developing peace in our relationships is to develop peace within ourselves first. Critics are not happy. Gossips are not full of the joy of the Lord. People who constantly stir up tension in relationships do it because they have no peace within themselves. If others frequently disappoint you, if your employees do more things wrong than they do right, if your children get on your nerves all the time, if you notice when others don’t do their job, if your spouse doesn’t live up to your expectations... maybe the source of the problem is you aren’t experiencing the peace of God in your life. You can’t give to someone else what you don’t have.



If there is time: Discuss how making an effort with Christ's peace in your heart can make getting along with others possible.

Notes:

Application Question: Peace and work can sometimes feel like an oxymoron. How will you find a peaceful life in your workplace this week?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



LEAD

Ask Yourself: When I encounter difficult people, how can I glorify Him through the interaction?

PLEASE NOTE: This is study 7 of 9 on Colossians. What will you consider next? Consult a [BBT Coach](#) for suggestions.

Sample



PRAYERS

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LEARN

In order to live in harmony with each other Paul recommends the Colossians remind themselves how much God has had to forgive them. Being convinced of God's goodness will help them be good to one another. The Colossians must remember that they are beloved children of God. Only God's peace and love washing over the Colossians can make them live together in a more Christlike way.

Scripture references for this study: [Colossians 3:12-17](#), [Micah 6:8](#), [Luke 6:27-38](#), [Isaiah 26:3](#), [John 14:1](#) & [Philippians 4:7](#)



LIVE

- The faithfulness to remain convinced in Christ
- The faithfulness to remain created in Christ
- The faithfulness to remain cleansed in Christ

Application Question: Peace and work can sometimes feel like an oxymoron. How will you find a peaceful life in your workplace this week?



LEAD

Ask Yourself: When I encounter difficult people, how can I glorify Him through the interaction?

Sample