



PARENT GUIDE



daily devos
RADIATE STUDENTS



WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us for our fifth series of Daily Devos! Our team is so excited that you've jumped in with us to go deeper with God and study his Word with your student.

The purpose of the Daily Devos is to get into the habit of spending time with God daily. The purpose of THIS customizable parent material is to walk alongside your student as their primary disciple-maker. God has entrusted your child to you, and we pray that you will show them who Jesus is. We are here to support you!

When you download (or print) your parent guide, here's what to expect:

1. **READ:** This is what your student read in their Daily Devos today.
2. **REFLECT:** This section is an abbreviated version of what your student read in the Daily Devos. It's an explanation of the biblical passage for the day.
3. **REAL TALK:** This section has questions that you will want to ask your student. Don't just talk through "number one," "number two," but really enjoy taking your time. The questions may include your personal examples, missional moments, or action steps. Enjoy the conversation!

This content will really be about what you take the time to put into it. You can skim the paragraphs in a minute and move on, or you can learn to enjoy taking your time digesting the Bible. We are praying for you, and we love you.

Love,
The RADIATE Staff

WEEK 1 | DAY 1

READ: Colossians 1:1-8

REFLECT:

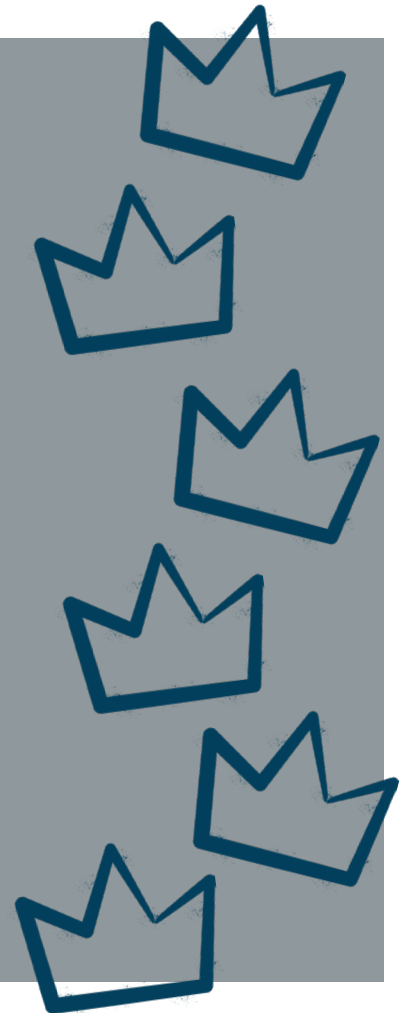
Welcome to Colossians! The purpose of Paul's writing Colossians is to combat false teaching with the truth that Christ is supreme and sufficient. The theme of the letter is that Christ is complete; therefore, believers are complete in Christ.

Epaphras was the faithful minister (1:7), man of prayer (4:12), and co-worker with Paul (1:7) that taught the Colossians the truth. He established the church in Colossae as a missionary partner in Paul's network. He's not among the "famous" guys in Scripture.

Discipleship does not equal fame. It can all be done in a group of a thousand or of one. No matter how big your stage is, be obedient to God and let him use you however he wants.

REAL TALK:

- What stood out to you about the teaching today?
- Read Galatians 1:10 and Luke 16:10. What do these verses have to do with what we talked about today?
- Can you list all the groups you're a part of: family, friends, teams, classes, LifeGroup, etc.?
- How could God be calling you to be faithful to him in those groups?
- Can I share the groups I'm in?
- Can I share with you the difficulties I've encountered trying to be faithful to God in some of those groups?
- What is your biggest dream?



WEEK 1 | DAY 2

READ: Colossians 1:9-14

REFLECT:

There's absolutely nothing wrong with, "Dear God, thank you for this day, thank you for this food, please bless it, amen." Nothing. Focus on learning to develop your prayer life to a deeper communion with God. Not just praying over the food and over prayer requests. Look at how Paul prayed for the Colossians.

Pray that they may...know God's will (1:9), be wise and understanding (1:9), live a life that pleases God (1:10), grow in their knowledge of God (1:10), rely on him for strength and patience (1:11), and overflow with joy and thankfulness (1:12)

If you take nothing else away from today, we want you to see how kind and meaningful it is to pray for your friends.



REAL TALK:

- What is your definition of prayer?
- Have you ever wondered what to pray? Why or why not?
- Do you feel pressure to pray the right thing? Why or why not?
- Do you feel nervous about being called on to pray out loud? Why or why not?
- Which friends do you need to start praying for?
- How could you incorporate Scripture into your prayers?
- How can I be praying for you today specifically?
- Can I share with you some prayers God has recently answered in my life?

WEEK 1 | DAY 3

READ: Colossians 1:15-23

REFLECT:

Syncretism is a word for a belief system made up of an assortment of beliefs and practices. You take some teachings of Jesus. Add little Judaism. A little paganism. A dash of Greek nationalism. A pinch of Gnosticism. And boom! You've got yourself Colossian syncretism. They let outside influences, culture, and worldly thoughts affect their views of Christ.

Paul is writing to the church saying, hang on a second! If your view of Christ is wrong, we're not talking about Christianity anymore. Christ is central, supreme, and enough.

Few other places in the Bible do we get such a compact and thorough description of King Jesus. Christ is the focus of our affection, devotion, and attention. Today, we looked at some false teachings that were seeping into the minds of the people in Colossae; then we looked at how Paul argues those false teachings with Jesus.

Check out more arguments for Jesus in the Daily Devos on our website.

REAL TALK:

- What stood out to you the most about the teaching today?
- Do you have any questions for me?
- What is something our world teaches that does not line up with the Bible?
- What has been something in this family that does not line up with the Bible?
- Tell me about a time that you heard something a little "off" but were afraid to say something.
- Next time, what can you do?



WEEK 1 | DAY 4

READ: Colossians 1:24-29

REFLECT:

Gentiles are anyone who is not a Jew. Paul felt entrusted by God with this special calling to preach Jesus to them (Galatians 2:7-8). Then there's the Colossian church, which was made up of a hodgepodge of beliefs, some Jewish and Gentile ideas included.

God **CHOSE** to make Christ known (v. 27). He actually wants people to know Jesus. It's not like he's holding back. We **CAN** know the truth, and we **DO** know the truth. His name is Jesus.

Christ in you is the **HOPE** of glory (v. 27). All our hope can be put in Jesus.

EVERYONE needs to hear the gospel (v. 28). Because we can/do know the truth, we have to share it with everyone! The church is God's Plan A for getting the word out. He is counting on you to tell.



REAL TALK:

- Have you ever shared the gospel with someone?
- If so, tell me a little about that experience.
- If not, what do you think is holding you back?
- Can I tell you about the last time I shared?
- Who can you tell?
- Do you need to talk through how you would go about doing that?
- Are you okay with me keeping you accountable and having a debrief once you've shared?

WEEK 1 | DAY 5

READ: Colossians 2:1-7

REFLECT:

Christianity is not simply a free pass for NOT going to Hell. You don't make a one-time decision, then you get to live however you want until you go to Heaven. Christianity is also not morality police. It's not the mark on your agenda or the points off of your participation grade. It's not your performance review at work, and it's not time out in the corner if you're mean.

In the same way that you can't earn your relationship with God, you can't work to keep it. It is an everlasting, ongoing relationship.

Paul uses an interesting double-metaphor for your life in Christ: Both rooted and built up, while walking. Imagine a healthy, stout tree...walking around! It's a silly, yet effective image.

REAL TALK:

- Tell me about the time you gave your life to Jesus. Describe how you felt in the following days and weeks. Were you excited? Were you curious to know as much as you can? Were you unable to contain the news of what Jesus did for you?
- Which tree would you say you are? A. Deep roots but not very tall; B. Shallow roots but tall branches; C. Deep roots with tall branches; D. Not a tree at all (no relationship with Jesus right now).
- How is God calling you to become a C. tree?
- Which friend in your life would you consider asking to be an accountability partner? Why?



WEEK 1 | DAY 6

READ: Colossians 2:8

REFLECT:

Below are some inspirational quotes or teachings from the world we live in. They are lines that our culture feeds us that you have most likely heard before or seen modeled to you. A few of them are fine. Some of them are downright wrong. We have to be so careful about what content we are allowing into our minds. It's fine to have positive, inspirational sayings from outside of the Bible that motivate us. But we have to filter everything through the lens of Scripture.

As long as it isn't hurting anyone, it's probably fine. Life is Good. If it feels right, it must be right. You do you. Don't waste your time on people that don't benefit you. You have everything you need inside of you.

These phrases are unpacked in more detail in the Daily Devos.



REAL TALK:

- Do you have a favorite quote?
- What does 1 John 4:1-2 have to do with what you read today?
- Which of the quotes from today have you said before?
- Which of the quotes from today have you heard me say before?
- Are there any in particular that really made you think?
- Why is it important to filter what we hear through the Bible?

WEEK 1 | DAY 7

READ: Colossians 2:9-15

REFLECT:

The Colossians had a hard time believing that Jesus was enough. Jesus is both fully God and fully man. We looked at several examples from Scripture today, too, that showed us where Jesus claimed to be equal with God. You can trust him that he is truly the Lord! And the only way to a relationship and eternal home with God (John 14:6).

Louie Giglio says often, “Jesus didn’t come to make bad people good. He came to make dead people alive.” Second Corinthians 5:17 says, “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” That’s such amazing news.

Culture teaches you are a good person who occasionally does bad things. But the Bible teaches we are all dead people in desperate need of a Rescuer. For more, check out the Daily Devos on the website that your student has read.

REAL TALK:

- Have you trusted Christ with salvation? Why or why not?
- What is keeping you from going all-in with Jesus right now?
- Would you consider yourself a “good person”?
- How does Romans 3:10 address that idea?
- Why is it so important that Jesus is also God?
- Do you have any questions for me today?



WEEK 2 | DAY 1

READ: Colossians 2:16-23

REFLECT:

Today mirrors Week 1 Day 6. That was a Part A. This is Part B. If Part A was warning us about empty/worldly philosophy, today is warning us about self-made religion. Here are some phrases that have seeped into our Christian thinking that are simply not right.

Don't be too pushy with what you believe/don't offend anyone.

What goes around comes around/you reap what you sow.

Everything will work out for good.

Speak your truth.

How does it make you feel/Follow what your heart tells you.

These phrases and more are unpacked in the student Daily Devos, found on our website.



REAL TALK:

- Which of these phrases have you ever said or been tempted to believe?
- Why do you think that sounds so good?
- Is there another one you would add to the list?
- Why does it trip up Christians?
- Tell me about a time when you were tempted to be quiet when you heard something wrong biblically.
- What would it take for fear to not hold you back from standing up for truth?
- How can I be praying for you today?
- What questions do you have for me?

WEEK 2 | DAY 2

READ: Colossians 3:1-4

REFLECT:

Today is all about having an eternal perspective. The world you see and the life you live...it's all temporary.

How much truth do you pour into your mind? Because we spent so much time over the last few days looking at what the world says, we spent the bulk of today focusing on what God's Word says. If nothing else today, take away the fact that we have to fill our minds with truth from God. Don't let the voices you hear loudest and most often be ones that just tell you whatever you want to hear. Fill your mind with God's truth.

Here are several verses regarding an eternal perspective:

Psalm 90:12; Psalm 116:15; Ecclesiastes 5:15; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 10:39; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Philippians 3:14; 1 John 2:17. These verses are in the student content.

REAL TALK:

- How much do you think about heaven?
- How much do you think about hell?
- What are some things that you care deeply about?
- How many of those will last past this life?
- Does eternity scare or excite you? Why?
- How can we as a family have more of an eternal perspective?



WEEK 2 | DAY 3

READ: Colossians 3:5-14

REFLECT:

In Colossians 2, he tells us to get rid of any human/empty/worldly philosophy, and then tells us about Christ. And in Colossians 3, he tells us what to take off, but right after that he tells us what to put on instead. That is so kind of God!

Put to death: what is earthly in you, sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry, anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth, lying.

Put on then: compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another, forgiving each other; above all LOVE.

For more background and details, check out the Daily Devos on the student page on the website.



REAL TALK:

- What questions do you have for me?
- What stood out to you in the “put to death” list? Why?
- What stood out to you in the “put on then” list? Why?
- How can you practice the “put on then” list as you go about your day?
- Is there someone you have a hard time “bearing with”?
- Is there someone you are not forgiving?
- What are you going to do about it?

WEEK 2 | DAY 4

READ: Colossians 3:15-17

REFLECT:

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts”, “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”, and “do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ”. These are three key phrases from the reading today, and we broke down the differences between them.

Passive language does not mean passive living. Let” just means, while you worship, while you learn, let it soak all the way down. Wait. Be patient. It will happen, but you do need to let it.

Then “do”! That’s about as active a verb as they come. And don’t just do things or do your schoolwork and chores... do “everything” for Jesus. Check Daily Devos for more.

REAL TALK:

- How would you describe peace?
- Where do you look for peace?
- Do you believe God can give it to you? Why or why not?
- How can we as a family be more at peace?
- How would you describe your relationship with God’s Word
- Do you treat the Bible like a part-time, annoying guest, or like a true partner/resident, richly taking up space in the home of your heart?
- How can I support you today?



WEEK 2 | DAY 5

READ: Colossians 3:18-25

REFLECT:

Whatever you do. Whatever. This word “whatever” in its original language literally translates “every which any ever”. “Whatever” is not just a relaxed way to say who cares. It’s a pretty good baseline description for every-which-any-ever. And it’s in this chapter twice, so you know it’s important!

“Heartily” here is the same word as soul. It’s saying do every-which-any-ever with soul, with all the life in your bones. Do it ALL – every-which-any-ever, with soul, “in the name of the Lord Jesus”. Another translation says, “as a representative” of the Lord Jesus. How are you representing Jesus right now – on your social media, in how you treat your family...is it every-which-any-ever as a representative of Jesus?

REAL TALK:

- What percentage of your life do you do with all your heart?
- How is Jesus represented in our family?
- How is Jesus represented on your social media?
- How is Jesus represented in your friend group?
- How can we as a family go out and serve someone this week?
- Would you consider memorizing Colossians 3:17 and/or Colossians 3:23 with me?
- What benefits do you think you’d receive from memorizing God’s Word?



WEEK 2 | DAY 6

READ: Colossians 4:1-6

REAL TALK:

1. “Continue steadfastly in prayer”: Never stop praying. Do you?
2. “Being watchful in it with thanksgiving”: Stay alert and constantly thanking God. How thankful are you?
3. “Pray also for us”: Pray for your Christian friends. Have you put Day 2 of this devo series into practice?
4. “That God may open to us a door for the Word”: Pray that God paves the way and leads you where he wants you to take the Word. Do you look for openings to share?
5. “To declare the mystery of Christ”: The Gospel is called a mystery; it was to the Gentiles until God used him to tell them about it, and it can be mysterious at times trying to fully grasp God’s grace. Who are you declaring the mystery of Christ to?
6. “On account of which I’m in prison”: He was in jail for preaching the Gospel. Would you be willing to go to jail for the Gospel?
7. “That I may make it clear which is how I ought to speak”: He was clear with his intentions, message, and relationships. How clear are you about the Gospel?
8. “Walk in wisdom toward outsiders”: You should be wise about how your life reflects Jesus toward non-believers. Are you carefree or wise about how you portray your God?
9. “Making the best use of the time”: Don’t waste your time. How purposeful are you with your time?
10. “Let your speech always be gracious...”: Pretty self-explanatory. How gracious is your speech, especially toward non-believers?



WEEK 2 | DAY 7

READ: Colossians 4:7-18

REFLECT:

Demas is mentioned three times in the Bible, including in our passage today. Philemon 24 calls Demas a “fellow worker”. He heard and shared the Gospel often, so it looks like he started out really well in his ministry. Today’s passage infers that Demas is still involved in ministry at this point in the New Testament.

Then in 2 Timothy 4:9-10, Paul writes toward the end of his life. This dude straight up deserted Paul! We don’t know when, where, why, or how. But he was out.

People don’t always remember how you start, but they always remember how you finish. Finish well. Don’t desert your friends or abandon God’s ministry for your life. Stay the course.



REAL TALK:

- What in your life is wrapping up, in the next day, week, month, year, or decade?
- How can you finish well?
- Who is an example of someone in your life that finished something well?
- What can you learn from their example?
- Do you ever feel like giving up?
- How can I encourage you in your faith?