

## Rival Images

# Small Group Questions

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*The following questions are intended to start conversations.*

*Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.*

- Read **Colossians 2:6-15**. List all the things that Paul says about Jesus in this text.
- Re-read **vs. 6-7**. Although this section introduces a series of commands (imperatives), it is vital to read this in light of what Paul has already said about Jesus (indicative). Why?
- The primary instruction in this section is to continue to live our lives in Christ. How does Paul imagine that we do this?
- Peter Wohlleben, in his book *The Hidden Life of Trees*, points out that root systems are intricately connected, and what happens to the roots of one tree (species) can affect the roots of another. Given that Paul is writing to a community and not to an individual, how might we hear the command to be rooted differently?
- The final clause in this section is to “overflow with thanksgiving.” Take a moment to share several things that you are thankful for. Paul connects thanksgiving with following Jesus. In what way are these connected?
- Paul goes on to warn the Colossian church not to be taken captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy. Although not entirely clear, this had something to do with angel worship and the denial of their bodies (see **vs. 16-23**). What are some “hollow and deceptive” philosophies in our time? What makes these philosophies so appealing?
- According to Paul, how might recognize deceptive philosophies and guard against them?
- What are we doing to become more grounded in Jesus? This question is not intended to create guilt; rather, it is intended to cause us to reflect more deeply on what we are doing daily or weekly to allow the seed of God’s word (Jesus) to become more rooted in the soil of our lives.