

The True Image

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations.

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

- Read **Colossians 1:1-2**. Who is Paul writing to? What is significant about addressing this community both in Colossae and in Christ?
- What is your impression of the Roman Empire? Who did it benefit and who was crushed?
- Do empires still exist today? If so, in what form?
- Empires are legitimized by powerful stories. What are the dominant stories in our culture? For example, what you buy will make you happy. Can you think of other examples? How are these stories told? How prevalent are they? Do people believe them? Why?
- Read **Colossians 1:15-20** (ideally, in several translations). What stands out for you in this poem?
- Given that many of these words and images were used to describe Caesar, what do you think Paul is trying to communicate in this poem?
- What are the implications of Jesus being the image of the invisible God?
- Notice the repetition of the phrase “all things.” Notice where Paul uses this phrase. What do you think he is saying about Jesus? Do you believe this?
- Read Paul’s prayer in **Colossians 1:9-12**. Among other things, Paul prayed that the people of God in Colossae “live a life worthy of the Lord.” What do you think he meant?
- What might that mean for us?
- Use this prayer as a guide to pray for one another and for our church.