

# CELEBRATION SUNDAY

## GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help you grow in your relationship with God and develop meaningful, lasting relationships with others. Get together with friends, or visit [brookwoodchurch.org/groups](http://brookwoodchurch.org/groups) to find a group that's already meeting. *Let's do life together!*

**April 27, 2025**

## Connect

Here are a few questions to get the conversation rolling.

What's something...

- God revealed to you this week?
- That brought you joy this week?
- You've been praying about this week?

## Pray

Spend a few minutes in prayer, drawing your attention toward God. Consider these prayer points as you invite God to lead and guide you.

- God, in this quiet moment, I pray you'd calm my heart and mind so I can experience more of you. Pause in silence to help you become present.
- I pray you'd help me hear your voice above the noise.
- I pray You'd protect me against the attacks of the evil one.
- What burdens are you carrying? Name specific situations or areas of life in which you particularly need God right now. *God, I release this to you... I trust you with this...*
- May the people of Brookwood (you might name specific people) experience more of Your great love this week. May we become a people overflowing with gratitude.

## Read

### **Colossians 3:1-11 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of

God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

## Explore and Discuss

1. What does it mean to be raised to new life with Christ (vs. 1)? How have you experienced this new life?
2. Jesus sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. How might focusing on this fact affect your attitude/thoughts in a practical way?
3. What sorts of things are *things above*, and what sorts of things are *earthly things*?
4. What are practical ways to set your sights on *things above*?
5. What does it mean that your life is hidden with Christ in God?
6. How does the promise of sharing in God's glory bring you hope?

7. Even after being raised to new life, followers of Christ continue to battle with sin (reflect on ways sin shows up in vs. 5-9). How do you long for God to work in your life? What impact has this internal battle had on your relationship with God?
8. How does this passage challenge you?
9. What specific parts of this passage bring you encouragement?
10. Name one way you can apply the truths of this passage to your life.

## For Further Reflection and Discussion

Meditation means to read slowly, gaze intently, giving undivided attention to a passage of Scripture. Meditate on the following passages. What stirs in your heart as you read these? Which words or phrases stand out?

1. Psalm 68:32-35
2. 1 Chronicles 16:11
3. Micah 7:18-20
4. 1 Corinthians 8:6
5. 2 Peter 1:3-8

## A Spiritual Practice

This week, set aside a substantial amount of time (say, 30 minutes) for prayer. Let go of what you think this is supposed to look like. Ask God to work in your life in a new and powerful way. Focus your attention on Him. Make no demands. Open your heart to God, and ask Him to continue changing how you think and live.

## Memorize

One of the best ways to deepen your relationship with God is to memorize Scripture. These are His personal words to you! Commit these verses to memory to help you walk more closely with Him.

*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*      **Colossians 3:2-3 (NIV)**