

# VICTORIOUS

## LEADER GUIDE

### OVERVIEW

**Main Point:** Jesus' victory brings us freedom

**Key Passages:** Colossians 1:15-23; Colossians 2:6-15; Colossians 3:5-17; Colossians 4:2-6

### INFORMATION FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS

This small group experience is designed for leaders to engage students in conversation after the sermon. During your small group time, encourage your students to talk, discuss, and open up. As a leader, do not be afraid of awkward silence. Allow God to work during this time and facilitate the conversation as the students talk. Don't be afraid to unpack what it means to be a Christian. This series is designed to spark salvation conversations and help students turn to God.



## Hey Small Group Leader!

We are stoked that you are serving at a retreat in order to share the love and grace of Jesus with students. Our prayers are with you!

As you prepare to lead these sessions, there are a few quick tips we want to pass your way. **Small group leaders are the most influential people at a retreat** – so pray hard, prepare well, and magnify Jesus!

### Reminders for Small Group Leaders:

- **Prepare in advance.** Creativity doesn't happen overnight. Let the Bible passages marinate in your own heart before teaching the sessions.
- **Pray for your students.** You can begin praying for the students even before you know which ones will be in your group. Pray for their hearts. Pray for their parents. Pray for their salvation.
- **Make necessary changes to each lesson.** The best curriculum is still too general to connect in every ministry context. You are the expert on your students. Feel free to take notes and add questions to the sessions.
- **Facilitate a conversation.** You should not monopolize the teaching time. Allow students to discuss, reflect on, and internalize the content.

### Additional Resources for You:

Ministry Bubble is a content creation company that produces studies, books, and articles for youth ministries. Looking for resources to continue discipling students after your event? Then check out the links below for Ministry Bubble's divisions!

- [ChaseSnyder.blog](http://ChaseSnyder.blog) – Articles about leadership and discipleship.
- [YouthMinStudies.com](http://YouthMinStudies.com) – Downloadable and customizable studies.
- [228Publishers.com](http://228Publishers.com) – Paperback books and devotionals.

Blessings,

*The Ministry Bubble Team*

## About The Author

### Eric Friedmann

Eric Friedmann is a disciple, husband, dad, and pastor. He serves as the Urbana Location Pastor for First Christian Church – Champaign. Previously, he served as a high school pastor and student pastor for seven years, where he saw Jesus grow and develop thriving student ministries furthering His Kingdom. Eric holds a master's in New Testament and Spiritual Formation from Johnson University, where he also received his bachelor's in Preaching and Church Leadership. On any given day, you can find Eric golfing, eating nachos, going to the gym to cancel out the nachos, reading almost anything, or just being with people helping them find and follow Jesus.

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# VICTORIOUS

## Session Overview

### Session 1: Victory Starts Here

The book of Colossians begins with a call to produce good fruit and grow in our knowledge of God. A full and flourishing life stems from the victory God established from the beginning of time and the eternal reconciliation Jesus provides. Since the creation of the world, God has desired a relationship with His creation – us! – but sin got in the way. During this session, you will realize that above all else, Jesus is in control.

- **Main Point:** Victory starts with knowing Jesus is in control
- **Main Passage:** Colossians 1:15-23

### Session 2: Alive With Victory

The way we begin our faith journey (belief in the victorious work of Jesus) is the same manner in which we continue to grow and mature. The victorious actions of Jesus free us from the bondage and wrath of our sin. This new life marks us as complete and whole through the work of Jesus, with no need to add to it or be deceived by other methods of earning a place with Jesus.

- **Main Point:** Jesus' victory is our victory
- **Main Passage:** Colossians 2:6-15

### Session 3: Living Victoriously

The victory we have in Jesus allows us to freely live a life with Jesus at the center. Because of the grace of God, we do not have to worry about paying off our debt; Jesus did it all. Jesus living within us calls us to put to death the old life by living in the new life established through Christ-centered victory. This triumph is evidenced in our lives by how we speak, act, and engage with others. We must not just put off the old, we must put on the new. Living victoriously means seeing King Jesus as our new clothes.

- **Main Point:** Jesus frees us to follow Him freely
- **Main Passage:** Colossians 3:5-17

### Session 4: Victory With Others

Living victoriously not only transforms our lives internally, it transforms our relationships externally as well. Paul closes this letter with two powerful illustrations of how Jesus' victory changes relationships: first our relationships with family and work and secondly how we are to pray for one another. Every relationship and every moment of prayer is a chance for the victory of Jesus to transform the lives of those we encounter.

- **Main Point:** Living victoriously with others is victory for the Gospel
- **Main Passage:** Colossians 4:2-6

# VICTORIOUS

## Session Flow

### Set The Stage

5-7 minutes

We know how hard it is to keep students focused on the sermon topic as they make their way back to host homes or transition into rooms after the service. “Set The Stage” is a time to rein it back in and focus for the session.

### Large Talk Recap

5-7 minutes

The main point of the sermon will be the same main point that you will discuss with your students during each session. The “Large Talk Recap” will bring in a few ideas from the sermon to align the group for digging into God’s Word. Be ready to share your personal struggles with listening to God’s Word and applying it in your daily life. *Your transparency may enable Gospel transformation.* Be ready to encourage and engage students during this time.

### God’s Word

10-15 minutes

Each session will dig into one key passage from God’s Word. As best as you can, engage each student in conversation. The questions will focus on unpacking how the original hearers and audience felt, thought, wondered, and responded.

### Our Response

10-15 minutes

Once the original intent of the biblical passage is understood, it will be time to focus on how the students should respond to the biblical truth. The “Our Response” section is designed to spark awe, confession, thanksgiving, worship, or surrender. This is where the Gospel of Jesus hits our collective heart, soul, mind, and strength.

### Your Move

10-15 minutes

The aim of these sessions is for your students to take action on God’s Word. The “Your Move” section will focus on how students can get past their pride and comfort and start living the faith that they proclaim during worship. Students will need encouragement to take risks, set goals, and break habits. Be ready to pray with and encourage the students as they prepare to apply God’s Word to their day-to-day lives.

\*\* Remember, you know your students best. ***The best curriculum is still written for students in general, not for your specific group.*** Take a few minutes and personalize this small group lesson to ensure that it connects with your specific group of students.

# VICTORIOUS

## SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE SESSION 1: Victory Starts Here

### The Study

The book of Colossians begins with a call to produce good fruit and grow in our knowledge of God. A full and flourishing life stems from the victory God established from the beginning of time and the eternal reconciliation Jesus provides. Since the creation of the world, God has desired a relationship with His creation – us! – but sin got in the way. During this session, you will realize that above all else, Jesus is in control.

- **Main Point:** Victory starts with knowing Jesus is in control
- **Main Passage:** Colossians 1:15-23

### The Supplies

- Small group leader guide
- Small group student guide (1 per student)
- Ink pens (1 per student)

### Need Additional Resources?

Looking for more resources? We create customizable resources to help you reach the students in your community.

Head to [www.MinistryBubble.com](http://www.MinistryBubble.com) for books, trainings, blog posts, and digital studies.

# VICTORIOUS

## About The Passage: Colossians 1:15-23

### About The Book:

Colossians came out of a desire to deflect a form of Jewish-Gnosticism trying to invade and influence the church in Colossae. (Jewish-Gnosticism is a belief in the importance of academic knowledge over faith.) Paul uses the supremacy, sufficiency, and divinity of Jesus to show how Christians should live their lives. Paul's main goal is to paint a picture of the complete adequacy of Christ versus the empty and hollow philosophies of the age.

### About The Author:

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colossae around AD 58-62. The church at Colossae was established by one of Paul's disciples, Epaphras, who was converted in Ephesus. Paul wrote while under house arrest for two years. During this time, he also wrote the letters of Ephesians and Philemon.

### About The Passage:

The letter to the Colossians embarks on a journey showing the victorious power of Jesus. Paul affirms the Gospel message as it made its way to Colossae and its power to bear fruit in the life of all those who believe. Paul makes his first argument for the victory of Jesus by describing how from the beginning God has been in control and ready to provide reconciliation for all who believe in Jesus.



# VICTORIOUS

## Sermon Notes:

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

Bible Verses: \_\_\_\_\_

Songs I Liked: \_\_\_\_\_

## Notes:

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## Questions To Ask Students During The Session:

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# VICTORIOUS

## Session 1: Victory Starts Here

### Set The Stage

**Leader Tip:** Start the session off with a quick prayer. Do not ask for prayer requests at this time. Pray for guidance, focus, and a fresh movement of God's Spirit.

**Say This:** When it comes to victory, we all know that sometimes there are things we can control and other things we cannot. Most of us like a certain amount of control, so it's hard to let others be in control of things that affect us. We're going to look at why it is important for us to know that God is in control of this life and what gets us through to the next.

1. Would you say you're a good loser? Why or why not?
2. If you could be victorious at anything in life, what would it be? (Sports, music, a hobby, etc.)
3. On a scale of 1-10, how much can we control the outcomes of things in our lives?

### Large Talk Recap

1. What were the most memorable one or two concepts you heard the speaker discuss?
2. Why do you think those concepts stuck out to you?
3. What do you think the main takeaway of the talk was?
4. What did the passage of Scripture reveal to you about God's character or His heart?

## God's Word

Transition to God's Word:

Ask a student to read the passage below.

### Colossians 1:15-23

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

<sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup>And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup>he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, <sup>23</sup>if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

#### 1. How does Jesus make us right before God?

We are made right – or holy and blameless – before God by the work of Jesus when He died on the cross for our sin. It is only a gift of grace; we cannot do it by our own good works.

# VICTORIOUS

## 2. Why did God make peace with us through Jesus on the cross?

God's plan from the beginning was to have an everlasting relationship with His creation. God made peace on the cross by casting all His wrath toward sin upon Jesus. We now have peace with God because Jesus took on our debt of sin.

## 3. How is knowing God and His plan a key for growing in our faith?

Knowing God allows us to grow closer to Him, just like we would a friend or significant other. When we understand His plan of love, grace, and mercy for us, we don't see God as angry or against us. Rather, we see that God is for us!

## 4. What comes to mind when you hear that only Jesus can make you right with God?

Focusing on being right with God puts the focus on God and His holiness (where it should be). God sent Jesus on a mission to "seek and save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). A right standing with God isn't based on our achievements, morals, or good deeds. Salvation and victory only come from Jesus.

## Our Response

**Leader Tip:** Allow the students to internalize the Scriptures during this portion. Remember to facilitate discussion. As tempting as it may be, don't answer these questions for them. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in their minds and hearts.

1. Why is it important to know God was in control of creation and Jesus' death on the cross? How does it help us start strong in our faith with Jesus?

# VICTORIOUS

Even from the beginning, God's plan was to have an eternal relationship with us.

2. What are different ways we try to earn God's love? Do you think someone can earn God's love?

**Leader Tip:** Remind students that there is nothing that we can do to earn God's love. His love for us is unconditional. Reference Romans 5:8: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

3. Read Colossians 1:5-6. What are three to five ways you can bear fruit or increase your knowledge of God this week?

## Your Move

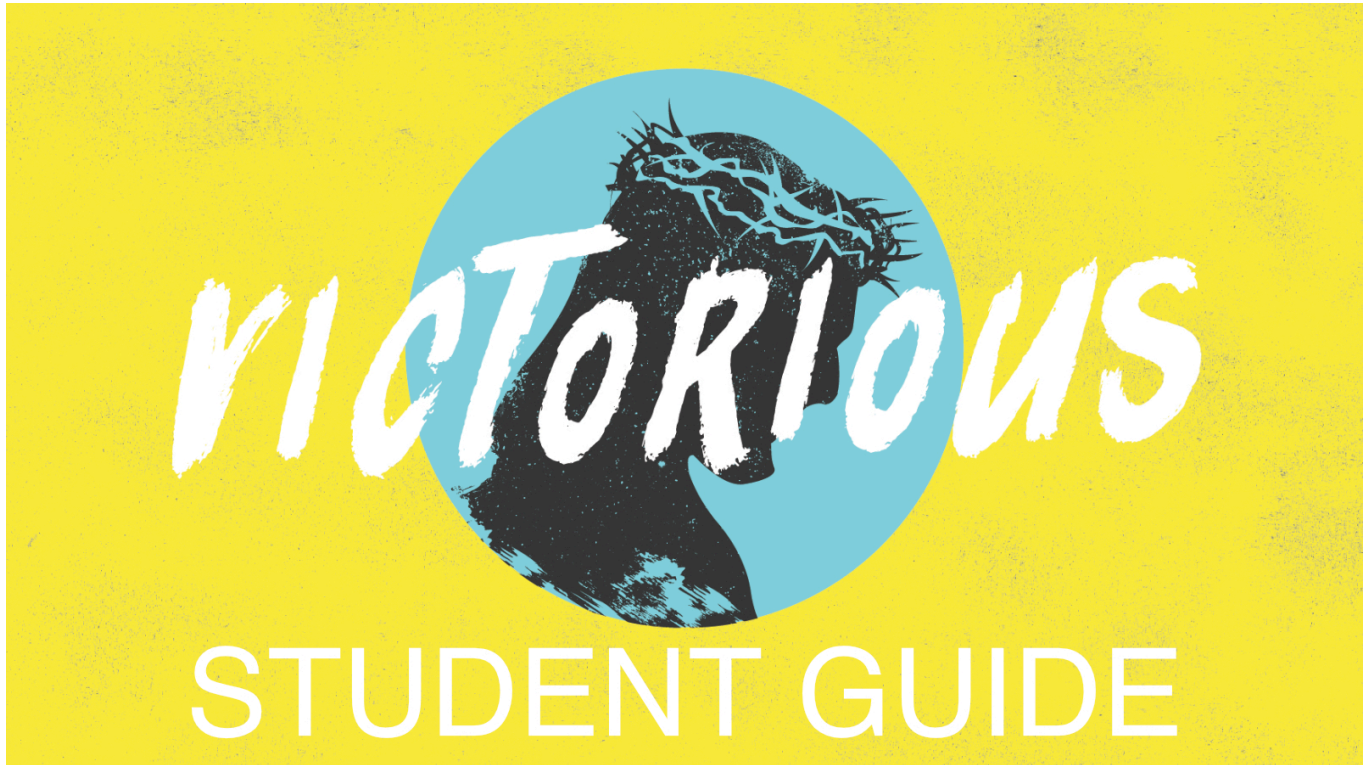
**Main Point:** Victory starts with knowing Jesus is in control

### Object Lesson – *Your Fruit Tree*

Ask every student to draw a tree. Then have them draw three fruits on the ground and three fruits on the tree, labeling each piece of fruit on the ground as attributes they don't want in their life and each fruit on the tree as attributes they do want in their life. For the fruit on the tree, ask students to draw branches leading to each fruit and write on each branch what things will help them grow that specific fruit in their lives.

1. What are one or two ways your life looks or can look differently because of the victory of Jesus over the sin in your life?
2. Which of these fruits do you want to start cultivating this week?
3. How will you measure the fruit of your life moving forward?

**End the session in prayer.**



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### Victorious

As believers, our life and everything about us – how we talk, pray, think, act, and live in community with others – should find meaning by embracing the victory of Christ. Jesus' death and resurrection allow us to live victoriously both in this life and the next as we become more like Him.

This is a four-session study that will encourage you to live boldly, embracing the victory already won for you on the cross.

# VICTORIOUS

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## SMALL GROUP STUDENT GUIDE SESSION 1: Victory Starts Here

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# VICTORIOUS

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# VICTORIOUS

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# VICTORIOUS

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