

**BIG TRUTH: GOD'S PEOPLE ARE THE CHURCH**

Ezekiel 36:28; Jeremiah 31:33; 2 Corinthians 3:5-6; 5:17; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Exodus 19:5-6; Matthew 16:18

**BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 1:18**

*“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.”*

**BIG IDEAS**

- God’s people are devoted to Him above all else.
- God’s people are made new.
- God’s people are set apart and sent with the gospel.
- God’s people live by faith and run with endurance.

**BIBLE PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 1:13-20**

**UNITE: LIVING IN COMMUNITY**

The Unite year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are brought into the family of God- seen throughout the Old Testament as “God’s People” and in the New Testament and today as the church (Exodus 6:7; Colossians 1:18). We are set free from our sin to walk in freedom in Christ (Galatians 5:1) and use our influence to call others to do the same.

**SERIES AIMS**



**Every student should know...**

- God has always been making and keeping a people for Himself
- In this age, the church is God’s people
- Being a part of God’s people should inform every aspect of our lives



**Every student should feel...**

- Love for God and the people of God
- Accountable to God and to the church to pursue holiness
- Responsible to use their influence to make much of God alone



**Every student should strive to...**

- Study the connections between God’s people in the Old Testament
- and the church in the New Testament
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Invite others into God’s people, the church



**Every student should want...**

- Be marked by their faith
- Talk about God every day, in every setting and circle of influence
- Live as a faithful member of their local church

**STUDENT WORKOUT:**

This week we will ponder the truth that God’s people are the church. We will pray for hearts that are devoted to Him above all else as we practice running our race with endurance.



**Read Colossians 1:13-20 this week. As you read these verses answer the following questions in your journal:**

- What is the “domain of darkness”? What is the “kingdom of His beloved Son?”
- Who gives redemption and forgiveness of sins? Why is this significant to believers?
- Who is the image of the invisible God? Why does this make Christ set apart and preeminent?
- Why is it important to note that all things were created through Christ and for Him? How does this change how we view our lives and the things God has given us?
- Since Christ is the head of the church, how should we live our lives as the church?

**Read and meditate on Colossians 1:13-20 this week. Use the questions below to guide your meditation:**

- Ponder the truth that God’s people are His church. Since Christ is the head of the church, how should his church treat Him?
- Consider the truth that God’s people are devoted to Him. How does your life reveal that you are devoted to Christ above all things?
- Ponder the truth that God’s people run their race by faith with endurance. Does your life reveal this? How does it reveal this?



**Pray with your parents this week.**

- Ask God to help you run your race with faith and enduring the trials you face.
- Pray with your parents or small group leader this week, asking God to guide you to devote your life to Him alone and nothing else.



**Memorize Colossians 1:18 this week by writing the verse in your phone.**

- Ask your parent or a friend to memorize the verse with you.
- Consider the challenges you face to living faithfully for Jesus. Jot down some of the things that make it hard for you to remain faithful. Share these things with your parents. Ask them to help you grow in your faith by overcoming these challenges.
- Meet with your small group leader to talk through ways that the church is devoted to Christ. Talk through ways you can better serve Christ by serving in the body of Christ.