

# Group Leader Guide-Oct 13 2024

## Sermon Recap

*Colossians 1:15-20; Mark 5:25-34; Psalm 16:8; Luke 19:1-10; Genesis 16; Psalm 139:13-14;*

*Hebrews 12:2*

Steve shared his gratitude for the Thanksgiving season and reflected on the importance of recognizing what we are thankful for, particularly highlighting his role at Columbia Bible College. He emphasized the significance of living with God rather than just for Him, illustrating this by discussing Jesus' presence and care in our lives through various biblical stories. The message also focused on the idea of God as Emmanuel, who sees and understands our struggles, transforming feelings of anxiety into peace. In closing, Steve encouraged everyone to surrender their burdens to Jesus and to fix their eyes on Him, ensuring that they understand the immense love and support He offers.

## Quotes

"There's a significant nuance, a mindset shift, a paradigm shift when you work in this Emmanuel piece, because there's a difference between serving for God and living for God and living with God and serving with God" - Dr Steve Brown

## Discussion Questions

What does the concept of Emmanuel, meaning "God with us," mean to you personally?

- The sermon discusses the importance of understanding that Jesus is Emmanuel, who is always present with us, even during tough times.
- How does knowing that God is with you change the way you face challenges in your life?

How can the story of the woman who reached out to touch Jesus relate to our feelings of anxiety or feeling unseen?

- The sermon mentions this woman's desperation and faith as she sought healing from Jesus, even believing that just touching His clothes would heal her.
- Have you ever felt like you needed to reach out for help in a similar way? What obstacles did you face in doing so?

In Colossians 1, it describes Jesus as the image of the invisible God and emphasizes His role in creation. How does this understanding of Jesus impact your view of His authority in your life?

- Steve shares Colossians 1 to highlight the greatness and supremacy of Jesus as our leader.
- How can recognizing the authority of Jesus change your daily decisions and actions?

Zacchaeus climbed a tree just to see Jesus because he felt unworthy being a tax collector. How does this reflect the idea of seeking God despite our past mistakes?

- The sermon illustrates how Jesus saw Zacchaeus and called him, showing that He welcomes everyone, no matter their past.
- What steps can you take to approach God even when you feel unworthy?

Why is it important to differentiate between serving for God versus living with God as mentioned in the sermon?

- Steve emphasizes the difference between merely doing things for God versus having a relationship with Him.
- In what ways can you shift your focus from just serving to building a deeper relationship with God?

## **Prayer**

- Ask for God's guidance in applying the message this week.
- Pray for peace and assurance in the face of anxieties.
- Thank God for His presence in our lives.
- Lift up any personal prayer requests shared within the group.