



## Growing in Character

Discussion Guide

May 20, 2018

Colossians 3:5-17

### Questions for Study

\*\* Before you begin, please read Colossians 3:5-17 as a group.

1. Describe someone you know who has strong, godly character. What about this person makes you describe them this way? In what ways does their character "take shape" in their lives?
2. Why is character important?
3. Read the following quote from David Brooks (from his book *The Road to Character*). After reading the quote, answer this question: Do you agree with Brooks' assessment of character in our culture today? Explain.  
"Many of us have instincts about right and wrong, about how goodness and character are built, but everything is fuzzy. Many of us have no clear idea how to build character, no rigorous way to think about such things. We are clear about external professional things but unclear about internal, moral ones."
4. In Colossians 3:1-17, the Apostle Paul helps provide a picture of Christlike character and shows how to grow in character. Below, you'll see four basic ingredients of growing in character, along with verses from Colossians 3 where we see this.  
Spend time on each of the following points – read through the verses and share how these verses bring out the point they're associated with.
  - Set your focus on Jesus. (Colossians 3:1-4)
  - Starve out the sin in your life. (Colossians 3:5-11)
  - Seek Christlike virtue. (Colossians 3:12-4)
  - Saturate yourself in the good news of what Jesus has accomplished and offers. (Colossians 3:15-17)
5. As you seek to grow in godly character, how can you deal with discouragement that may arise if you're not growing as quickly as you want?
6. Why is dealing with discouragement the right way important?
7. Look closely at the virtues listed in Colossians 3:12-14. List each of the virtues and discuss ways you can "practice" this virtue in your life.
8. What's one big personal take-away you've learned from Colossians 3:5-17? How can you apply this take-away to your life?
9. How can your group be a place where these truths from Colossians 3:5-17 are practiced? List specific steps you can take as a group to "lean in" together to what you've learned here.
10. **Challenge:** Memorize Colossians 3:12: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.