

The Colors Bible Study

By Douglas Graham

We will be highlighting and color coding a Bible as we study the story and encouragement of Jesus. Each student should have a Bible and a yellow, green, blue and pink highlighter. If you are doing this study in an adolescent class setting and you bought them Bibles, don't let them take the Bibles home until the entire Bible study is completed. The highlighters also stay at the church building.

Each lesson will have four different topics. They are:

Gospel, The Story Of Jesus: Yellow

Identity and Grace: Pink

Encouragement: Green

The Church: Blue

Lesson One

1-A Gospel

Read and highlight Colossians 1:15-20 in yellow. (Pg. 1115)

1. Who is the text talking about? (Jesus)
2. Did Jesus have a role in creation? (Yes, by Him all things were created)
3. Is the power of Jesus displayed in the universe today? (The text says that, "...in Him all things hold together. Our universe is complex and made up of all kinds of smaller particles. All of these particles including atoms and even sub atomic particles are in constant motion. There is so much power in this that splitting an atom can cause a chain reaction resulting in a nuclear explosion. "In Him all things hold together is an amazing statement of power attributed to Jesus."

4. What does it mean that Jesus reconciled all things to Himself? (Jesus brought redemption and grace to humanity through the cross.)

Read and highlight Genesis 1:26-27 in yellow. (Pg. 1)

1. Why does God refer to Himself as plural? Let “Us” make man in “Our” image. There is one God (Write see Deuteronomy 6:4-6 (Page 176) in the margin of your Bible) God is made up of three parts. They are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is important to remember that we are created in the image of the fullness of God. We are created in the image of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

2. Does that mean we physically look like God? (No, see I Corinthians 15:50)

3. What does image mean in the text? (There is a reflection of God inside each one of us.)

Lesson 1-B, Identity and Grace

Read and highlight Psalms 139:13-16 in pink. (Pg. 595)

1. Are we each a miracle created by God? (Yes. We often think of life miraculously beginning when God created Adam and Eve but it is important to remember that God created us each specifically and we are all a miracle created by God.)

2. Does God know what our life will be like? (Yes. One of the words to describe God is “Omnipresent”. That means that God exists everywhere, in the past, present and future simultaneously. That doesn’t mean that God causes every event to happen. You may have seen a movie a hundred times and know it backwards and forwards but that doesn’t mean that you cause the events in the movie to happen just because you knew what would happen.)

3. If I have a weakness for depression, same sex attraction or addiction does that mean God created me that way? (Each person has challenges, weaknesses and disabilities that they have to overcome. Some of those challenges, weakness and disabilities are biological but that doesn’t mean the person with them cannot thrive within the boundaries God has given. The person with same sex attraction can still have a family with an opposite sex spouse. They can have the family they always dreamt of with all of the pleasures and joys of family but like other struggles, it will be with difficulty. Some people also might have a predisposition to addiction. Personally, the writer

would like everyone to avoid dangerously addictive substances. (Alcohol, Nicotine, Marijuana, Meth, Cocaine) In reference to alcohol, alcoholic wine was drank in the Bible and by Jesus Himself. Water was very dangerous at the time and many people died of water-born diseases. Because of this people drank wine mixed with water. It wasn't the strong wine we have today. (See Proverbs 9:1-5 and Isaiah 5:22, they talk of mixing wine and mixing it to strongly) We have many options for safe drinking in our world. Alcohol is very addictive. Others might have a struggle with depression. Our brains are flesh and they can have biological problems that cause prolonged sadness. If you have biological depression, it is a survivable struggle that does not have to prevent you from thriving. Finally, some people struggle with other physical disabilities like blindness, deafness, autism or paralysis. It is hard to understand that God created us in our mother's womb how He wanted us but we still have very real struggles. God has specific tasks for us to accomplish and our gifts, struggles and abilities will combine to make us uniquely able to accomplish those tasks.

Read and highlight Luke 9:23-24 in pink. (Page 978)

1. Does each person have specific struggles they have to deal with? (Yes)
2. What are we supposed to do with those struggles? (Pick them up and follow Jesus)

Lesson 1-C, Encouragement

Read and highlight Isaiah 40:28-31 in green.

1. Does God get tired?
2. Does God understand things better than we do?
3. Will things go better for us if we do things His way and not our own?
4. What do you think waiting on God means?
5. What are the benefits in waiting on God?
6. How does the text describe the benefits on waiting on God?

Lesson 1-D, The Church

Read and highlight Matthew 16:13-20

1. Who did some disciples think Jesus was?
2. Who did Peter think Jesus was? (He used the word “Christ”. Now Christ isn’t really Jesus’ last name. The Jews originally spoke Hebrew. The Hebrew word for Messiah was Mashiach. Alexander the Great had conquered most of the world before the Roman times and the times of Christ. Most people spoke Greek. The Greek word for Messiah is Christos. The Jewish people had been waiting for the promised Messiah and Peter acknowledged that Jesus was Him.)
3. What was the church going to be built on? (Peter’s name meant rock. Jesus said that the truth that He was the Christ or Messiah was also a rock and the church would be built upon the idea that He was the Christ)
4. How long would the church last? (Hades or death would not overcome the church. It will survive until the coming of Christ.)

