

Ice Breaker (in groups of 2 or 3 for larger groups)

Share your favorite international food and why you like it.

Talk About it!

Part 1

Colossians 3:1–2 NLT

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

Discuss:

- A. What does it mean to "set your heart/mind" on the things above?
- B. What happens when we don't take control and direct our thinking and meditating?
- C. What happens when we do?

Part 2

Discuss:

- A. What does it mean for you that your new real life is hidden with Christ in God?
- B. How does growing actually happen and where does it start?

Part 3

Colossians 3:3–4 NLT

3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 And when Christ, who is your [a] life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

Discuss:

- A. Why is sexual lust so difficult for people, and for males in particular?
- B. How can we keep sexual desire, lust, and greed from controlling us?

Part 4

Colossians 3:5–9 NLT

5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. 6 Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. [b] 7 You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. 8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.

Discuss:

- A. Why do you think God doesn't just let us do whatever we want?
- B. How do the parameters of scripture regarding sin affect you?
- C. Is there anything you need to 'slay' that you're willing to say?
- D. How would it affect your GROWING if you don't slay that sin?

Part 5

Colossians 3:5–9 NLT

10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. 11 In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, [c] circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, [d] slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

Discuss:

- A. What is the feeling you get when you put back on the *old you*?
- B. What is the sensation you have when you do put on the *new you*?
- C. Can you share an example of you living from your new-true-you identity and what the result of that is?