



First Place | Colossians 1:15-18

1. Jesus is God

The Bible teaches us that Jesus was uniquely God and Man. Take some time to consider how the Bible acknowledges that Jesus is God.

- *Ask each other how do you know Jesus is God?* Here are some helpful passages: John 1:1, John 1:18, John 20:28; John 8:59; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8, 10.
- *Why is it important that Jesus is fully God?*
Think of the nature of the “atonement”. Listen to these words by Emery Bancroft, “Being man, he can make atonement for man; being God his atonement has infinite value.” Think about the importance of the nature of a perfect sacrifice and how that only God could pay or the penalty for our sin.
- *Other*

2. Jesus is First over Creation

He has the title, “firstborn”, which is a title of sovereignty or priority not a statement that Jesus is the first thing that God created (Psalm 89:27). He is in charge of creation “for in him all things were created” (Colossians 1:16). He is creator “all things were created by him” (cp. John 1:3 and Hebrews 1:2). He is the goal of creation “unto him” (Colossians 1:16). He is pre-existent “before all things” (Colossians 1:17). He is the sustainer and meaning of creation “in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17).

- *Explore with one another what difference all these characteristics about Jesus mean to you*

3. Jesus is First over the Church

“He is the head of the body, the church” (Colossians 1:18). This means that Jesus is actively leading the church. The Church here refers to the universal church, all followers of Jesus, but it also has significant implications for local churches. The letter to Colossians was written to a local group of people who were followers of Jesus. When they read these words, there is no doubt that they thought “wow, Jesus is leading us”. We should respond likewise.

- *What does Jesus as your leader mean to you?*
- *Spend some time in prayerful worship of Jesus. Allow for members of the group to express verbally what Jesus means to them to the group and to Jesus.*