

If the Calvary's Core series were a novel, He would be the prologue, the epilogue, and the story's central character. He would be the theme, the plot, the conflict, and the resolution. The CliffsNotes version of this series would need a one-word summary, and the dedication would list one name.

Jesus. It's all about Jesus.

Core Value 1: It's All About Jesus

We see a church filled with disciples who are committed to making much of Jesus. In a world that wants to define and divide us in countless ways, we will maintain our unity through keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). We will reject the call to give our ultimate loyalty to anyone other than the crucified and risen Son of God. We will talk about Jesus, sing about Jesus, pray in the name of Jesus, study the teachings of Jesus, and share the good news of Jesus all the days of our lives.

SESSION 1

It's All About Jesus

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

—COLOSSIANS 1:17



COLOSSIANS 1:15–20

Read Aloud in Your Group

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the

body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.





FOR DISCUSSION

It's All About Jesus

INTRODUCTORY QUESTION: If you had to choose only three things to prioritize in your life, what would they be and why?

1. What surprised you when reading the passage Colossians 1:15–20?
2. In verse 17, it is stated that Jesus “is before all things, and in him, all things hold together.” How does this truth affect our view of Jesus’ eternal nature and His sustaining power over the universe?
3. What does it mean for believers that “in everything, he might be preeminent” (verse 18)? Explore the implications of prioritizing Jesus above all else in our lives.
4. How can the truths expressed in these verses strengthen our faith and provide assurance in difficult times? Reflect on how these verses offer hope and encouragement to believers.
5. In what ways do you think focusing on Jesus can influence our priorities in life?
6. Can you share examples of how prioritizing Jesus has transformed your life or the lives of others you know?
7. What are some challenges or barriers that might arise when trying to prioritize Jesus in our daily lives?
8. What specific habits or practices can we adopt individually and as a group to deepen our relationship with Jesus?

9. In what ways does this passage challenge our perspectives on worldly powers and authorities? Consider how Jesus’ supremacy contrasts with the values and priorities of the world.
10. How can we ensure that “It’s All About Jesus” remains more than just a slogan, but a transformative principle in our lives?

GROUP EXERCISE:

The key to keeping it all about Jesus is not ignoring everything else in life, but prioritizing Jesus before all other things. As we consider how to keep Jesus as a priority, look at this list of good things and circle 2–3 that can easily come first in your life if you are not careful.

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|----------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1. Money | 8. Entertainment | 15. Sports |
| 2. Possessions | 9. Comfort | 16. Leisure |
| 3. Career | 10. Travel | |
| 4. Education | 11. Politics | |
| 5. Marriage | 12. News | |
| 6. Parenting | 13. Fitness | |
| 7. Friendship | 14. Health | |



CORE VALUE IN ACTION

It's All About Jesus

Mason is a young adult at Calvary whose life was changed by the grace and majesty of Christ. Like many others, Mason's personal story of coming to know and walk with Jesus has been written over time. His first encounter with God opened his eyes to Jesus and why all creation revolves around Him. Mason found the truths about the supremacy of Jesus in scripture (*Colossians 1:15-20*), and his worldview was forever changed.

As the weight of the gospel grips Mason's heart, he reminds himself daily that while he is unworthy, the peace he experiences is granted because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. He centers his mind and conversations around the preeminence of Christ and His peace.

The hope and purpose that has been given to Mason through embracing the "surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus" (*Philippians 3:8*) overflows into his friendships, private time, and work. It is his gratitude for what Christ provided for him that inspires such devotion.

Mason writes, "My words fall short of describing my gratefulness for His saving grace. However, one thing I know for sure is that I am lost in wonder at the feet of the Son and have been found in the embrace of the Father. Furthermore, He has been, and continuously is, transforming me into a new creation by the Holy Spirit.



Not only has Jesus become my hero but He is *The Hero*, culmination, and heir of all things. In my lowest of lows and highest of highs, He has been by my side, propelled me forward, and provided my feet with sturdy ground. He is my Constant, holding me still in my stress and excitement by giving me peace.

In Him, I find strength, joy, and life. Through Him, I have been reconciled, presented holy, and given a name. For Him I live, breathe, and praise. Even more so, to me He is my Rock, Friend, and Prince of Peace. That's why Jesus is my Everything."

