

**Aim:** To study Colossians 1:15-23 which talks about Jesus

*Depending on the group you might have different people read each verse, you might read the verses, or you might only pick and read some of the verses. The Bible verses in italic are from the NLT.*

**Read the first sentence of Colossians 1:15:** *"<sup>15</sup> Christ is the visible image of the invisible God."*

**What does it mean if someone is the image of someone else?** People say that Lachlan is the image of his dad; they mean that he looks very much like his dad. Jesus actually said that anyone who had seen Him had seen His Father, God, and He wasn't talking about His earthly Father, He was talking about God. And He wasn't only talking about His looks; He was also talking about His character too.

**Read Colossians 1:15b-17:** *"He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, <sup>16</sup> for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together."*

**What does this tell us about Jesus?** Jesus created everything. Jesus existed before everything. Jesus holds everything together.

**Read the first sentence of Colossians 1:18:** *"<sup>18</sup> Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body."*

**Is a body any good without a head? Can a head do very much without a body?** Your head controls and leads your body; your head tells all of your body parts how to work together. **What if one leg tried to walk while the other one sat down?** When everyone in the Church listens to God, then the Church can do really good things for God, but when everyone isn't listening and is trying to do their own thing, it's like a person trying to do a while bunch of different things at the same time.

**Read Colossians 1:18b-20**

*He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. <sup>19</sup> For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, <sup>20</sup> and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. <sup>21</sup> This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.*

**Sin separates us from God:** One time in Exodus 33:18-23 Moses asked to see God, but God told him that if he did that he would die. In fact Exodus 34:35 says that even with God's face covered, when Moses came back from spending time with God on the mountain, Moses' face was shining so much that the people couldn't look at him, so he covered his face with a veil.

**Read Colossians 1:22** *"<sup>22</sup> Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault."*

**Do you know what reconciled means?** To reconcile means to fix a broken relationship, or as verse 20 said, to make peace.

**How did God fix our relationship with Him?** Jesus took our sin and was separated from God and died in our place.

**Read Colossians 1:23** *"<sup>23</sup> But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it."*

**What happens when we forget about God or stop believing in God?** When we are not following God, we are following Satan. We need to ask God everyday to help us to follow Him.