

April 14, 2024

## Imagine Heaven: Paradise Lost (John 1:1-5)

*Your deepest darkness is God's opportunity to shine His brightest light.*

*Warmup: Describe your favorite source of light – a specific lamp, sunlight, your cell phone, strobe light. . .*

READ John 1:1-5, Colossians 1:15-21

- The apostle John refers to Jesus as the \_\_\_\_\_. Within the context of this passage explain the attributes of Jesus.
- The “firstborn” is supreme over all. What truths in Colossians 1:15-18 validate the preeminence of Jesus?
- What is God saying to you in these verses?

REFLECT

- Read Colossians 1:20: Why do all things need to be reconciled back to God?
- Challenge your Life Group to form small groups of **3 in 10 seconds** (Life Group Leaders, you're the time clock). Within your **group of 3** discuss how at times you identify with verse 21?
- Large Group Question: What things or forces seem more powerful than Jesus?
- Do you believe these forces are under the authority of Christ? Why or why not?

RESPOND

- Considering your discussion from the reflection questions, what difference does Colossians 1:22 make? To flex your memory muscle and equip yourself with the Sword of the Spirit for this week, brainstorm a simple catchy statement for Colossians 1:22.
- **Life Group Leader Homework:** Before your Life Group meets, ask someone to share a brief testimony (2-4 minutes) of God shining His light in their deepest darkness. Perhaps this is a testimony from the Life Group Leader.
- Return to groups of 3 and respond to the truth of Colossians 1:22. **Pray for one another and give God thanks** for His power in your life. **Who will you invite to Worship Services or Life Group next week?**

*“To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.”*