



## INTRODUCTION: Col 1:24-25

Paul turns to autobiography to explain his ministry to the Colossians. He begins by explaining that the Christian life is one of productive and joyful suffering.

## INSTRUCTIONS

This guide is meant to facilitate discussion which will lead to a response to God's word. Therefore please use it as a tool that best fits the needs of your small group.

## OPENING DISCUSSION

- What was the most interesting idea/concept about Sunday's sermon?

## REVIEW

- Have someone read **Col 1:24-25**
- Why does Paul rejoice in his sufferings? How is this strange?
- How are our sufferings connected to Christ's sufferings?
- What does it mean for Paul to fill up in his flesh "what is lacking in Christ's afflictions?" In what way are Christ's afflictions lacking?
- How does Paul suffer "for the church?"

## APPLICATION

- Does suffering for the Gospel and Christ actually help the gospel advance? In other words, do you think suffering is not simply a byproduct of living in a fallen world, but is actually part of God's strategy?
- Do you view the church primary as a place to receive or as place to give/sacrifice/suffer?
- In what ways are you suffering/sacrificing for the sake of the church?
- What is one area where you can begin to sacrifice for the sake of the church?
- Do you ever rejoice in your sufferings? Have you ever? Why or why not?

## PRAYER (divide the group based on gender if desired)

- What action/repentance does God want you to take according to the truths of this text?
- Are there any other prayer needs?