

*This midweek study will explore the biblical understanding of union with Christ. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.*

### Essential Doctrine: Union with Christ

At the heart of our salvation is our union with Christ. The Bible describes salvation as entering into a covenant relationship with God and also describes the church (which is made up of believers) as the bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:23-32). Christians believe that Christ dwells in our hearts through faith (Christ in us) and that we are simultaneously dwelling in Him (Eph. 3:17; Col. 1:27; 3:1-4). This union is indissoluble; it will last for all eternity.

### 1 Our union with Jesus is the foundation for every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3-14).

- ▶ *Imagine you die and appear at the door of heaven. An angel is guarding the door. He asks you, “Why should you be let in here?” How would you answer?*
- ▶ *Imagine that one day, out of the blue, Satan suddenly appears in your classroom, at your practice, or in your home. He points at you and begins listing off the reasons why you don’t deserve any blessings, just total misery. How would you answer him?*

#### Read Ephesians 1:3-14.

- ▶ *What patterns do you see repeating in this passage?*
- ▶ *Find as many “in Him,” “in the Beloved,” or “in Christ” phrases as you can.*
- ▶ *What is the basis for all the wonderful blessings talked about in this text?*
- ▶ *According to this text, what are some of the blessings we receive?*
- ▶ *Imagine a Christian says he feels worthless. How would you use the “in Christ” promises of Ephesians 1 to encourage him?*
- ▶ *Imagine a Christian says she feels like she has no hope and no future. How would you use the “in Christ” promises of Ephesians 1 to encourage her?*
- ▶ *How would you use the idea of our union with Christ to answer the angel and the devil in our first questions?*

### 2 Our union with Jesus keeps us humble when we are in danger of pride (Jer. 23:6; 1 Cor. 1:30).

- ▶ *What do you think it looks like when things are going well for us spiritually?*
- ▶ *Do you think God loves you more when you are living the “right way”? Why or why not?*
- ▶ *When we are doing well spiritually, what sin are we most at risk of falling into?*

#### Read Jeremiah 23:6.

- ▶ *In this text, what title is given to the Lord? What do you think that means? How can the Lord be our righteousness?*

#### Read 1 Corinthians 1:30.

- ▶ *According to this text, what did Jesus become for us?*
- ▶ *If Jesus is our righteousness (and our wisdom, redemption, and sanctification), how should we view our best days, spiritually? How does Jesus being our righteousness keep us humble?*

### 3 Our union with Jesus gives us hope and assurance when we stumble and fall (2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 2:20).

- ▶ *What do you think it looks like when things aren’t going well?*
- ▶ *How do you tend to feel when things aren’t going well spiritually?*

#### Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.

- ▶ *How does this sweet promise keep us from falling into despair when we seem unable to break out of a rut of sin? How is this promise rooted in our union with Jesus?*

#### Read Galatians 2:20.

- ▶ *According to Galatians 2:20, how do we live our lives now? Is this verse true on our best days spiritually? Is it true on our worst days spiritually?*
- ▶ *How is Galatians 2:20 rooted in our union with Jesus?*
- ▶ *How can you use this verse to give yourself hope and rock-solid assurance when you’re in a spiritual rut?*

### WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *Some Christians consider union with Christ to be one of the most central doctrines of the Christian faith. Would you agree or disagree? Why?*