



**January 21, 2024**  
**Essential Jesus for Unsettled Days – Back to Basics**

**Colossians 1:3-8**

**Summary: In a culture of shortcuts and life hacks, Scripture confronts us with a time tested slow path to maturity that offers no shortcuts but promises transformation. Colossians begins with two of the basics of our faith: Thanks and Prayer.**

**Scripture: Luke 15:11-32; Hebrews 12:5-10; James 1:17; 1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:12**

**Community Group Questions**

- “Often shortcuts make for long delays in life.”
- In what ways has your earthly father shaped your view of your Heavenly Father? (Heb. 12:5-10; Luke 15:11-32)
- “If it’s good it’s from God.” (James 1:17)
- How do we overcome the urge to blame God as the source for the evil in the world? (physical, religious and moral evil)
- “God doesn’t see evil as a part of the Kingdom, but as an invader.”
- “Evil has a terminal disease called redemption.”
- What’s the difference between thanking God *in* everything vs. *for* everything?
- How does the Holy Spirit help us to love the “difficult” saints?
- How does God use believers in bringing Heaven to earth?
- In what ways were you challenged to both live and share your faith with others?
- What is faithfulness, and why would faithfulness be likened to a heavenly badge of honor?
- “Give glory to God and be thankful for people.”