**Small Group Guide: Colossians 2:16-24**

Icebreaker Question

**Read Text**

What stuck out to you in the scripture, or the weekend sermon?

Paul tells the Christians “Do not let anyone judge you regarding certain Jewish festivals, feasts and Sabbaths.”

Why do you think human beings have such an ingrained tendency to judge others (especially regarding diet and the observance of special days)? And when is judgment good and when is it bad?

God does give people visions and dreams and powerful experiences of His presence. Can you describe any experiences that you may have had to encourage one another?

When does the focus on spiritual experiences become problematic in a church, or in our individual spiritual lives? (See. 18-20)

What “counterfeit cookies” did you grow up with?

*\*The “counterfeit cookies" were an analogy pastor Chris used to talk about the false ideas creeping into the Colossians church, and the tendency of these teachers to make up rules that weren’t in the Bible etc.)*

Pastor Chris listed **Four Steps** that lead to legalism (making up rules that aren’t in the Bible, and enforcing them as though they were etc.)

* A Christian struggles with a pattern of sin.
* To help overcome the sin, or struggle, the Christian makes a rule for himself or herself.
* The rules are so helpful for him or her that others are pressured into following suit.
* The Christian(s) begins to judge those who don’t follow his or her rules.

Why could you say that steps 1 and 2 are, not only unproblematic, but also quite helpful? What are some examples?