

# The Three-Legged Stool: The Seat

Total Time: 9-14 min

OPENING | 2 min



*Read the following aloud.*

As we shared in Training 1, these sessions are an invitation to wrestle faithfully with the teachings of Scripture, not to confirm everything you already believe about politics or to convert you to what we believe. We are taking a broad look at how God calls His people to engage with issues of power, justice, and political organization and consider His invitation to faithful engagement in our time.

Our grounding image for this is a three-legged stool. In our image, the seat of the stool is where God rests. Jesus is Lord over all that we think, do, and feel. Our longing is for what we ponder in our minds, do with our hands, and feel in our hearts to be in line with His love, justice, and intended purposes in the world. Consider the following Scripture:

Colossians 1:15-20 (NRSVue) says:

*<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.*

*19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.*

This passage is a powerful proclamation of the lordship of Jesus and the position of all individuals and institutions completely under Him. The diverse church at the bustling city of Colossae would hold the personal and social implications of the Gospel of Jesus together without question. This powerful word is no less significant for us.

### DISCUSSION | 5-10 min

*Break into pairs, small groups or remain as a whole group depending on your context and discuss the following questions together.*

- When you consider that Christ is Lord over all, not any country, nation, state, corporation, or government, what feelings and thoughts come up for you?
- What is encouraging and what is challenging about this message?
- When you think about local, state and national governments, what is the Good News of Jesus from this passage?

### PRAY | 2 min

*To close your time, read the words of the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-12 (NRSVue) and consider that Jesus' supremacy is over the White House, Congress, and every politician in our country and the world. Ask God where He wants to see His Kingdom come and His will be done in these institutions.*

"Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be revered as holy.  
May your kingdom come.  
May your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
but rescue us from the evil one."

*Scan the QR code for more resources  
on God's Good News About Politics*

