

Paul's world Life in Colossae

Materials to support the weekly resources on RCL Proper 11 Year C: Colossians 1:15-28 See www.rootsforchurches.com/paulsworld2025

Life today

Do you have a favourite song that is really special to you? Maybe it reminds you of a particular time with friends or family? Or perhaps there is a theme song to a TV programme that you know off by heart, because it is a programme you love? Songs can be important to us.



Imagine

Have you ever noticed how it is easier to remember the words to a song than it is to remember straight facts? This is something that has been true for many, many centuries, so before the times when most people could read or write, important information was often passed on in the form of poems or songs. So, imagine you are going to worship in the early church: instead of service sheets or data projectors, the people remembered the important things they understood about Jesus by reciting them in the form of a poem – or a hymn – and that's what we are reading here. Paul encouraged people to sing (Ephesians 5.15-20): perhaps because it is a good way of remembering things, or perhaps because there is something simple and spiritual about singing that connects us with God.



Did you know?

Music was a very important part of life in Paul's time. Just as it does today, music would have accompanied many special occasions, such as festivals and sporting events, as well as parties and church services. There were no recordings of music at this time, so people learned to play instruments to make music themselves.



Paul's letter to the Colossians

A nugget to explore with children:
Chapter 1, verses 15 and 17 (CEV)*

* Contemporary English Version

*Christ is exactly like God,
who cannot be seen. He is the
first-born Son, superior to all
creation. God's Son was before
all else, and by him everything
is held together.*