

JESUS IS LIFE

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN IMAGE BEARER
SERIES: GOD IS PURE — I AM PURSUING

BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS LIFE

John 1:3-4; 20:31; Romans 6:23; 2 Timothy 1:1; 1 John 5:20

BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 2:13-14

“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands.”

BIG IDEAS

- Jesus cancelled the sin debt that we owed so that we might receive life.
- To be a Christian is to abide in Jesus, which produces a heart of thanksgiving.
- Life in Christ means we live for Him, not for religious morality.

BIBLE PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-23

KNEEL - I AM AN IMAGE BEARER

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God's glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- They exist for God's glory
- The life of a Jesus follower is a life of constantly pursuing being more like Christ.



Every student should feel...

- A deep love for God's Word.
- Humbled that God would use us to make Him known.



Every student should strive to...

- Spend time each day studying God's Word and letting it shape their thoughts, feelings, and actions.
- Flee temptation and strive to “put off” sinful desires, thoughts, and actions.



Every student should want...

- To have a healthy fear of the Lord that leads them to walk in His wisdom.
- To pursue Christlikeness in their attitudes, desires, thoughts, and actions.
- To walk in and model a life of purity because God is pure.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 2:13-14

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All people are born spiritually dead.

“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh...”

- Because of the sin natures that we inherit, we are all born spiritually dead. This means we do not naturally seek God, nor are we aware of the things of God. We are blinded by our sin and we all reject God. Being spiritually dead means we cannot understand the truths of God and continue to reject Him.
- Because we are all spiritually dead, we cannot save ourselves. We may understand that something is broken in the world and that people do bad things, but we are not awakened to God’s truth until His Spirit moves inside of us. Because we cannot pay our own sin debt, we are all in need of someone to save us.

God offers forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

“God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses...”

- God is perfect in every way. This means He is a just God. Because He is perfectly just, our sin debt demands payment. God shows great mercy and grace by offering His Son as payment for our sin debt. Jesus became like us and lived the perfect life that we could not live. He died on the cross, paying for our sins through His death.
- God offers forgiveness to people through faith in Jesus. Those who repent of their sin and believe in Jesus as their Savior receive forgiveness for their sin debt.

Through Jesus, our sin debt is completely forgiven.

“...by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands.”

- When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the sin debt of every person. Those who repent and believe in Jesus can have complete forgiveness for their sin debt now and forever.
- A saving faith in Jesus results in our sin debt being cancelled forever. There is nothing we can do to undo the forgiveness we receive through Jesus. Once we are in Christ, we are always in Christ. This means God no longer counts our sin debt against us. He sees us as forgiven always.

BIG IDEA #1: JESUS CANCELLED THE SIN DEBT THAT WE OWED SO THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE LIFE.¹

[THIS]

In Colossians 2:9-11, we see that Jesus is the visible expression of God, which means that He is God in the flesh. This means that Jesus is fully God and possesses all the power and authority of God because He is God. Because Jesus is fully God, His death on the cross was sufficient to satisfy the sin debt that we owed. He took on flesh and became like us that He might live the perfect life and die on the cross in our place. Jesus' death on the cross cancels the sin debt that we owe and makes a way for us to have new life through Him now and forever. Christ has all power and authority over all things. When we have saving faith, we are in Christ and receive the power to live for Him. It is through Christ that we can put off our flesh, or sin natures and live for Him as new creations. Through Christ, we receive new life.

[THEREFORE]

How has the Gospel changed you?

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, we see that those who have saving faith in Christ become new creations. This means our hearts are made new and we are no longer enslaved to our sin natures. Galatians 2:20 shows us that when we become believers, it is Christ who lives in us. We die to our old, sinful selves and are transformed by the Holy Spirit living inside of us.

[THIS]

In Colossians 2:12-15, we see that the new life we receive is possible because of the power that we have in Christ. When we have saving faith in Christ, we are set free from our sin nature. Our faith in Christ leads to our putting off our flesh nature and living for Christ. This new life is possible because Jesus cancelled our sin debt and circumcised us from our old, dead natures. We are free to live for Christ and to die to our earthly desires. We are raised to new life just as Christ rose from the dead on the third day. Without the forgiveness of our sin debt, we could not have new life.

[THEREFORE]

Read Colossians 2:12-15. What is an area of sin or struggle that you have been set free from in Jesus, but are struggling with living in freedom?

Romans 6:11,14, and 19 shows us the freedom we have because of Jesus' death on the cross. We are no longer held accountable for the sin debt that we all owe when we have saving faith in Christ. This means we can walk in the freedom and new life that we have. Galatians 5:17 tells us that our flesh nature craves the sinful things we have been set free from, which means we can still struggle to live in the freedom we have.

What hope does having new life in Christ bring you as you seek to live for Him?

As we seek to live for Christ, knowing that we have new life enables us to persevere in this world. Even when we give in to earthly things, we know we will be forgiven by our Heavenly Father. John 5:24 reminds us that those who have new life in Christ will not face eternal judgment. 1 Timothy 6:12 encourages us to continue fighting the fight against our flesh nature and the things of this world because we have the hope of eternal life.

1. Colossians 2:9-15: Through Jesus, God satisfied the sin debt we owed and now we have new life through Him.

BIG IDEA #2: TO BE A CHRISTIAN IS TO ABIDE IN JESUS, WHICH PRODUCES A HEART OF THANKSGIVING.²

[THIS]

In Colossians 2:6, Paul reminds the Colossians that Jesus is Lord of all. As he calls them to remember that Jesus is their Lord, he admonishes them to build their lives upon Christ. In order to rest in Jesus in every circumstance, our lives must be built upon Him. This means we seek to know who He is and by learning who He is, we learn who we are. Just as Paul encourages the Colossians to be rooted in Christ, we, too, should seek to ground our lives in Christ. Being rooted implies that Christ is our source of everything. Just as a tree's roots supply all things necessary to the tree's life, Christ supplies what we need for life. As we root ourselves in Christ and abide in Him, we grow in our knowledge and understanding.

[THEREFORE]

Practically, how do we root ourselves in Jesus and make Him the foundation of our lives?

Ephesians 3:17-19 teaches us that when we focus our lives on Christ and seek to know Him through His Word, we will root ourselves in Him and His love. The more we know of Him, the more our lives will be rooted in Him. Colossians 2:7 also speaks to Christ being our foundation, or the thing our lives are centered around and submitted to. Psalm 1:3 reminds us that when we are rooted in Jesus, our spiritual lives will flourish and we will find strength.

[THIS]

Though Scripture teaches that it is the Holy Spirit who awakens darkened hearts and brings them to faith in Christ, once we become followers of Christ, we are to establish our faith in Him. We become rooted and grounded by growing in our knowledge of Him. As we grow in our knowledge of Him, our hearts are continually transformed. As we are transformed, our hearts will abound with thanksgiving to the Lord for His mercy and grace. Abiding in Christ is getting to know who He is and all that He has done more and more. It is also an understanding of who we are. As we see ourselves for what we truly are—sinners—and we compare ourselves to a holy God, the result is a thankful heart that God cares for us.

[THEREFORE]

What distracts you from abiding in Christ and growing in your knowledge of Him?

Romans 12:1-2 teaches us to not conform to the world. This means that while we are in the world, we should not think like the world, act like the world, or love the things the world loves. Luke 21:34-35 warns of being weighted down by the cares of the world, or even being caught up in the temporal pleasures of the world. These things serve as distractions in keeping us from abiding in Christ and truly growing in Him.

Is your heart full of thankfulness today? How does the gospel produce a heart of thanksgiving?

In Psalm 9:1 and 107:8-9, we see examples of hearts that are overflowing with thankfulness. Jeremiah 30:19 also shows us that the work of the Lord in our lives produces thanksgiving.

2. Colossians 2:6-7: *When we experience new life, we will have hearts full of thanksgiving to God for delivering us from our sin debt.*

BIG IDEA #3: LIFE IN CHRIST MEANS WE LIVE FOR HIM, NOT FOR RELIGIOUS MORALITY.³

[THIS]

As Paul warned the Colossians believers against the false teachers in the Colossian church, he taught them what it means to live for Christ. The false teachers in Colossae were teaching religious morality rather than living for Christ. Colossians 2:20-23 is Paul's warning to the Colossians not to return to the false spirituality of the world, but instead to live in the freedom given to every believer through Christ. There is a form of religious morality that is a moralistic, therapeutic deism. This belief focuses on man's behavior and presumes man's natural ability to be good. It fails to teach that man is inherently sinful and only the work of Christ on the cross can save anyone. This religious morality falls short of salvation and leads to an emphasis on the outward appearance of goodness and extra-biblical spiritual experiences. Often this type of morality leads to a life of duplicity in which people live one way in public, yet their hearts are full of sin.

[THEREFORE]

How easy is it for you to mistake an outward morality for truly living for Christ?

Titus 1:16 speaks of people who say they know Christ, yet their lives reveal they have not been truly transformed by Him. It is easy to appear to be a follower of Christ because we "look" the part, but inside we are far from Christ. Jesus warns of this type of Christian life in Matthew 7:21-23 when He speaks of people who have seemingly served Him, yet they have not truly known Him.

[THIS]

Being alive in Christ means living for Him. Our goal in living for Christ is not achieving moral superiority. It is pursuing and growing in our knowledge of Christ. Earlier in Colossians, Paul writes that Christ is the mystery of God. Our pursuit as believers isn't to finally arrive at a place of religious moral superiority, but to live a life that centers around knowing Christ and being like Him. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus says to seek His kingdom and righteousness first. When we set our minds and hearts to live for Christ, we will pursue a growing, deepening knowledge of Him. This means we die to ourselves and live for Him, obeying His word and seeking His glory in all things.

[THEREFORE]

In Colossians 2:20-23 we see that the church in Colossae was confused with what makes a person godly.

How do we confuse religion with true worship today?

In Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus teaches that our outward, seemingly religious actions do not mean that we truly know Him. Our outward actions can seem good and even religious, but our hearts can be far from Christ. We can serve at our church and even try to be obedient people, but our hearts are not truly repentant. True worship comes from a heart that has been transformed by Christ.

How does focusing on Christ help you pursue His glory in every circumstance?

Hebrews 1:3 teaches us that Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God. Because the fullness of God's deity dwells in Jesus, as we pursue Christ, we are pursuing God's glory. As we grow in our knowledge of Christ, we will desire God's glory above all else. 2 Peter 3:18 reminds us to grow in this knowledge of Christ and shows us that a knowledge of Christ is directly connected to the glory of God.

3. Colossians 2:20-23: Our goal is knowing Christ and obeying Him, not seeking to be good or moral.