

JESUS FOLLOWERS PUT ON CHRISTLIKENESS

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

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS PUT ON CHRISTLIKENESS

Romans 8:29; Ephesians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 2:17

BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 3:14-15

“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

BIG IDEAS

- We love others like Jesus because God first loved us.
- We can have peace within and towards others like Jesus when He reigns in our hearts.
- We embrace thanksgiving like Jesus when the gospel becomes real to us.

BIBLE PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 3:14-15

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.

JESUS FOLLOWERS PUT ON CHRISTLIKENESS

BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 3:14-15

“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

Believers are called to live lives displaying love.

“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

- Love is from God because God is the beginning of all things. We know what love is and how to love others because God has shown us through His love for us and by giving us His Word to teach us how we should love. God’s example of love is perfect and His love prompts us to love Him and others.
- As followers of Christ, we are called to do all things out of love for God and for people. God commands us to love Him first and to love others next. Our love should look like God’s love, which means it is patient, long-suffering, and never-ending. Everything in our lives should be done from a place of love.

Love serves as the catalyst for all that God’s people do.

“...which bind everything together in perfect harmony.”

- God’s love serves as a catalyst to draw us to Him in saving faith. Out of His love for us, we are set free to follow Him. When we follow Him, we act out of love for Him and for others. Our love for Him grows as we grow in our knowledge and understanding of Him. As our love for Him grows, our love for other people will grow because we will love the things that God loves, and God loves people.
- It is love that leads God’s people to act. We obey Him because we love Him. We serve Him out of our love for Him and we serve one another because we love God and love people. We take care of the poor and share the gospel because we love others. We seek to be like Christ because we love Him.

Believers experience peace when they abide in Christ with thanksgiving.

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

- Experiencing the peace of Christ is possible because Christ paid the sin debt of the world. When we have saving faith, we are no longer enemies of God and are at peace with Him. When we strive to know Christ and to follow Him in every way, we are aligned with His Word and in obedience to Him. This gives us peace in every circumstance and all the time. We also experience an attitude of thanksgiving for all that Christ has done and continues to do.

JESUS FOLLOWERS PUT ON CHRISTLIKENESS

BIG IDEA #1: WE LOVE LIKE JESUS BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US.¹

[THIS]

Love is the motivator for God's people to live for Him. Love is from God and we know how to love because He first loves us. God's love is perfect and His example is set before us as a guide. God's love covers all offenses and lasts forever. Because God loves us, we can love Him and others. In Colossians 3:14, Paul teaches the Colossians the significance of love and the impact it has on our lives. Love is an integral part of all we do and God showed us love perfectly by having Jesus die in our place. We would not know what love is unless God had showed us. God shows us perfect love and through His example, we learn what it means to love Him and others.

[THEREFORE]

How has your idea of love been re-shaped by the way God loves you?

Psalm 143:8 speaks of God's unfailing love. His love does not end and from His unending love, we learn that our love should not stop. John 13:34 reminds us that God's love teaches us how to love. Psalm 36:7 shows us that God's unfailing love serves as a refuge for us. When we love as God does, we can offer hope and refuge to others, too.

[THIS]

As God's chosen people, we are called to love others just like Jesus loves us. As believers seek to be like Christ, a Godly love must be at the heart of all that we do. We must love God first and above all other people and things. We must love people because when we love God above all, we will love what He loves. God's love for people is evident because He has placed His image on them and He has sacrificed His only Son for them. We can love people in the same way that God does by bearing with them. Being in their lives and investing in people shows them that we love them. Being willing to walk with them through good times and hard times shows them a Godly love.

[THEREFORE]

How can you show Godly love, or the love of God, to others this week?

Proverbs 10:12 teaches us that hatred brings discord and strife to our lives. When we choose to harbor hard feelings or allow ourselves to give in to hatred, we will not love others as we're called to love them. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 teaches us what Godly love looks like. As we seek to show Godly love to others this week, we should seek to love with a love that looks like the description in Corinthians.

What challenges do you face when trying to show Godly love to others?

Often we fail to love others because our focus is on ourselves. In Philippians 2:3-4, Paul teaches that believers are not to act out of rivalry or to give in to their selfishness, or conceit. When we live selflessly, we can love others with a Godly love. When we live focused on ourselves, we will find it hard to sacrifice for others. 1 John 4:18 shows us that there is no fear in perfect love. This means that we cannot fear others or a consequence and show true love. We must love as God loves, sacrificing for others and speaking the truth in love.

1. 1 John 4:19: We know what love is and we love because God first loved us and shows us how to love.

JESUS FOLLOWERS PUT ON CHRISTLIKENESS

BIG IDEA #2: WE CAN HAVE PEACE WITHIN AND TOWARDS OTHERS LIKE JESUS WHEN HE REIGNS IN OUR HEARTS.²

[THIS]

As God's people seek to live for Him, the goal is to glorify God in every way. Believers bring God glory by putting on the attributes of Christ in their lives. In order to be like Christ, we must know Christ. He must be our Savior and Lord of our lives. In order to know Christ, we must abide in Him. This means that we must saturate our lives with His Word in order to grow in our knowledge of Him. Abiding is focusing every part of our lives on Christ and seeking to be like Him. As our knowledge of Christ grows, He will reign in our hearts as King. We will be filled up with Him and our love for Him will grow. When we abide in Christ, we can be at rest in Him and the work He has done on the cross. We will rest in the truth that we are righteous because of Him and nothing we can do will change that or our position in Him.

[THEREFORE]

What are some distractions that keep us from confidently resting in Jesus?

Philippians 2:4 teaches us to look out for the interests of others, not just ourselves. This idea shows us that we are not to be self-focused people. Further in Philippians 2:21, we see that it's possible to seek our own interests instead of God's glory. When we are focused on ourselves, we aren't focused on abiding in Christ and making Him Lord of our lives. 2 Timothy 3:2-4 shows us some of the attitudes and desires that are contrary to serving and seeking Christ. These serve as distractions from abiding in Christ.

What is an area of your life where you are struggling to find peace?

Matthew 6:25 teaches us that we can have peace concerning our daily provisions because God has promised to provide for His people. Philippians 4:6 reminds us to not worry about anything we may face and to rest in Christ. 1 Peter 5:7 also reminds us to cast our anxieties on God. When we worry, we are not at peace and do not have rest.

[THIS]

When Christ reigns in us, we will experience His peace. We will feel peace within ourselves, no matter our circumstances. Just as Jesus had peace while on earth, we can have peace during our earthly lives. This peace is possible because of the atoning work of Jesus on the cross. We have peace with others because of the peace we have with God. When we no longer owe God a sin debt, we are relieved of the fear of punishment. We can live with joy in our hearts and endure the things of this life knowing we have the hope of eternal life with Christ. When our hearts are full of this hope, we can choose to be at peace with others.

[THEREFORE]

What obstacles challenge you in living at peace with others?

Luke 6:32-34 shows us that when we love only those who love us, we are living according to the world's standards, not God's. When we love all people just as Christ does, we can live at peace with everyone, even those who make us angry or hurt us. James 3:16 teaches us that when we are ambitious or jealous, we aren't likely to live at peace with others. Lastly, James 4:1-2 teaches us that it is our sinful flesh that leads to fights and quarrels and keeps us from living at peace with others.

How can you put on the peace of Christ this week?

In Hebrews 12:14, we see the believer's call to try their very hardest to live at peace with all people. Living at peace with all people is a challenge because we are all sinful. Ephesians 4:22-24 shows us that when we put off our flesh, we can live with others as God commands us to live with them. This means we can live at peace with anyone.

2. Colossians 3:14-15: Peace from God is unlike any other peace and is only possible when Christ is Lord of our lives.

JESUS FOLLOWERS PUT ON CHRISTLIKENESS

BIG IDEA #3: WE EMBRACE THANKSGIVING LIKE JESUS WHEN THE GOSPEL BECOMES REAL TO US.³

[THIS]

In Colossians 3:15, Paul tells the Colossian believers to be thankful. Paul's command implies thanksgiving is something we must work to achieve. In order for our lives to be filled with thanksgiving, we must grasp the Gospel and all that it means to us and for us. Jesus set the example of thanksgiving for us. No matter His circumstances, He kept God's plan in front of Him and walked faithfully. He pursued God's glory and lived a life of thanksgiving. As we pursue Christlikeness, we will put on thanksgiving. We will have attitudes of gratitude and will live in obedience to Christ out of our love and thankfulness for all that Christ has done and continues to do for us as His people.

[THEREFORE]

How do we grow in our understanding of the gospel?

2 Peter 3:18 shows us that growth in our knowledge of Christ is important to our spiritual life. As we grow in our knowledge of Christ, we grow in our understanding of the Gospel and what it means to us. Colossians 2:6-7 teaches us to continue growing in our knowledge of Christ so that we may abound in thanksgiving. The more we remind ourselves of the work of Christ on the cross, the more our hearts will give thanks.

What is something that God has done in your life recently that you can give thanks for?

1 Thessalonians 5:18 teaches us to give thanks in every circumstance. This means that we can be thankful no matter our situation or circumstances. Hebrews 12:28 shows us that we can give thanks because we are in Christ and will inherit an eternal home with Him. Our lives are full of the evidence of God's great blessing on them. He provides for us and loves us to the utmost.

[THIS]

When we live every day reminding ourselves of the Gospel, we will embrace thanksgiving. We deserve eternal separation and punishment from God, yet we receive grace and mercy. We deserve to suffer because of our rejection of Christ, but God provides salvation and forgiveness instead. When we live each day in this reality, we will have an attitude and posture of thanksgiving as we realize how much has been forgiven us. It's easy for us to live as if the Gospel is something that just ensures our eternity in heaven, but the Gospel is life-transforming and ushers us into a lifetime of giving everything up for Christ as we seek to become more like Him. When the Gospel becomes real to us, we understand we are sinners and Christ is our Savior.

[THEREFORE]

What distracts you from having a heart of thanksgiving?

Colossians 3:2 teaches us that when our minds are set on heavenly things, our hearts follow. When we set our minds on the things of this world, we will struggle with our fleshly desires and that will lead to ungratefulness and entitlement. James 1:12 teaches us that trials come into our lives and they can distract us from being faithful to God. When we remain faithful no matter our circumstances, we will have a grateful heart.

What are some practical aspects of embracing thanksgiving?

1 Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to give thanks in every circumstance. When we have a grateful heart, we can give thanks always. James 1:17 shows us that every good gift we have is from God. Everything we receive is from God and our appropriate response should be thanksgiving. We should especially give thanks for God's gift of salvation.

3. Colossians 3:15: *We have thanksgiving in our hearts when we live in the knowledge that we are all sinners and Christ died for us.*