

JESUS FOLLOWERS LOVE GOD'S WORD

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

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS LOVE GOD'S WORD

2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 19:7-10; 119:41-50; John 14:23; 1 John 2:5

BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 3:16-17

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

BIG IDEAS

- We love God's Word when we let it fill our minds, shape our feelings, and direct our actions.
- We love God's Word when we instruct others in it.
- We love God's Word when we sing it.

BIBLE PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 3:16-17

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 3:16-17

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

Believers make learning God's Word a priority.

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly...”

- To know God, we must know His Word. The Bible, or God's Word is the way in which we can learn about God. When we learn about God, we then learn about ourselves. Because knowing God's Word leads to our spiritual growth, believers should make it a priority to know God's Word.
- The more we know God's Word, the greater our love for it will be and we will continue to learn it. In order for God's Word to dwell in us richly, we must saturate our lives with it. This means we read it, study it, meditate on it, and memorize it.

Believers trust God's Word to guide their lives.

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly...singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

- We must trust God's Word in order to believe what it says about our salvation. When we believe it to be trustworthy to teach us the way to salvation, we trust it all in its entirety to direct our lives.
- Believers trust God's Word to guide their lives. They live according to His Word and seek to obey it in every way. Believers understand that the only way to truly please God and live for His glory is to use His Word as the only true source of wisdom.

Believers use God's Word to help one another.

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom...”

- God's Word is a guide for us and a way to help one another live for Him. As we grow individually in our knowledge of God's Word, we can help other believers live for Christ by sharing what we learn.
- As we live life with other believers, we can help one another by teaching and encouraging one another to know and obey God's Word.

JESUS FOLLOWERS LOVE GOD'S WORD

BIG IDEA #1: WE LOVE GOD'S WORD WHEN WE LET IT FILL OUR MINDS, SHAPE OUR FEELINGS, AND DIRECT OUR ACTIONS.¹

[THIS]

When Paul writes “let the Word of Christ...” in Colossians 3:16, he is instructing believers on an important part of their spiritual walk. To “let” is give opportunity to someone or something. This imperative implies that believers should order their lives in such a way that they are reading, studying, and meditating on God’s Word. Paul teaches that it is the Word of God that changes lives and increases a believer’s knowledge of Christ. To make an opportunity for the Word to dwell, or live inside of us is to have the truth of Christ permeate every part of us. By seeking to have the truth of who Christ is and what He has done and will do saturate our lives, we are seeking to know Christ and to be like Him.

[THEREFORE]

How does your knowledge of Christ increase as you read and study the Bible?

In Psalm 1:1-3, we see that those who seek God and learn His Word will flourish and grow in Him. As we read and study God’s Word, we will grow in our knowledge of Christ. John 1:14 tells us that the Word became flesh, which means that Jesus is the Word and when He came to the earth, it was the Word of God taking on flesh. To know Christ is to know His Word because it is from His Word that we can learn who He is and what He requires of us as His people.

How can spending time in Scripture reshape the way we feel and the way we love God and others?

1 John 4:7-11 reminds us of God’s perfect love and these verses admonish us to love as He does. Because love is from God, we learn how to love by learning about God. As we learn about God, His Word will reshape the way we feel and how we seek to love Him and others. This is because His Word is true and life-transforming.

[THIS]

Paul’s instruction in Colossians 3:16 isn’t just a call for believers to make God’s Word part of their lives, but for them to fully avail themselves of its truth by saturating their hearts and minds with it. To let something dwell in you richly is to be full of it, so full that you are overflowing with its truth. We do this when we order our days around Christ. We can fill ourselves with God’s Word daily when we make it an invaluable part of our lives. This means reading it becomes non-negotiable. It becomes an integral part of us, so much so that it fills our minds, shapes our feelings, and directs our actions.

[THEREFORE]

How can you structure your life to make God’s Word an integral part of it?

In 1 Chronicles 22:19, we see God’s people, the Israelites given the instruction to set their heart and mind on the Lord so that they might fulfill His purpose for them. As we seek to make God’s Word an integral part of our lives, we will need to set our hearts and minds on Him. By determining that we are going to seek God’s Word, we will let it dwell richly in us.

What challenges distract you from letting God’s Word dwell in you richly?

Proverbs 26:12 teaches us that when we think we are wise, we are actually foolish. Our pride in our own knowledge can distract us from seeking God’s Word and seeing His Word as the only source of true wisdom. In Joshua 1:8, God’s people are told to meditate and dwell on the Word of God daily. When we are distracted by earthly things, we will not let God’s Word dwell in us richly. Instead, we will be led away by the cares of this world.

1. Colossians 3:16: God’s Word impacts every part of our lives and shapes us.

JESUS FOLLOWERS LOVE GOD'S WORD

BIG IDEA #2: WE LOVE GOD'S WORD WHEN WE INSTRUCT OTHERS IN IT.²

[THIS]

The Word of God is profitable for believers' lives. God redeems individuals to be part of His family and to live life together on mission for Him as His church. God's people live on mission when they instruct one another in God's Word. By letting the Word of God dwell in them, God's people can teach one another how to obey it and how to glean wisdom from it. The importance of teaching one another is to help others grow up in their faith. We see this example set before us in God's Word as Paul instructing Timothy and other believers to grow in their faith. As we teach one another God's Word, we grow up spiritually and bring God glory.

[THEREFORE]

How have you grown spiritually because someone has taught you God's Word?

2 Timothy 2:2 shows us that those who have a knowledge of God's Word should teach the truths they learn to others. Titus 2:2-8 teaches us that God's people should instruct one another, particularly older people teaching younger people. This means that those who are more spiritually mature invest in people who are not as spiritually mature. This shows us that teaching others God's Word helps them grow spiritually.

[THIS]

Teaching God's Word is only part of a believer's responsibility. Paul teaches the Colossian believers to admonish one another. To admonish is to encourage, warn, and give advice. We show that we love God's Word when we use it to encourage others to live for Him. When our encouragement of others is grounded in God's Word, we show that we truly believe it is profitable in every way. As we grow in our own knowledge of Scripture, we help others by speaking truth to them as we seek to live life together as God's people. Instructing others in God's Word helps us and them grow spiritually. God joins us together as a body of believers so that we might spur one another on to live for Him. When we love God's Word, we will share it with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

[THEREFORE]

How have you resisted the admonishment or teaching of other believers in your life?

James 1:19 teaches us that we should be quicker to listen than we are to speak. Applying this truth to our lives, when we hear instruction from older, wiser believers, our response should be to listen first. Proverbs 18:2 teaches us that a fool doesn't see the profit in guidance from someone else. Proverbs 2:2 tells us to incline our ears to guidance and teaching because it is from this that we can grow spiritually and we are saved from bad mistakes.

What keeps you from lovingly challenging other believers to run from sin and follow God?

In Ephesians 4:15, we see that speaking the truth in love to other believers helps them grow spiritually. It is important for believers to speak truth to one another because it helps the body of Christ mature in Him. Part of speaking the truth in love is being willing to challenge other believers to resist the temptation to sin and to flee from it. James 5:19-20 and Galatians 6:1 show us the importance and value in challenging fellow believers to follow God.

In what ways can you seek to instruct others in God's Word this week?

Proverbs 27:17 teaches us that two people can help one another grow spiritually. When we encourage one another in God's Word and remind others of God's truth, we act as iron sharpening iron. We help others grow spiritually. By seeking to spur our friends and peers to serve God by reminding them of God's truth found in His Word, we are instructing them in His Word.

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 LOVE GOD'S WORD

BIG IDEA #3: WE LOVE GOD'S WORD WHEN WE SING IT.³

[THIS]

We talk about what we love because what is in our hearts touches every part of us. Loving God's Word involves knowing it and the more we know it, the more we will talk about it. It will become a part of our lives in such a way that it impacts every thing we do, think, and say. Paul writes to the Colossians about encouraging one another through spiritual songs and hymns. Hymns and spiritual songs are worship and instruction. Spiritual songs teach us about God and helps us grow spiritually. These are more than songs about the Christian life, they are rich in the language of God's Word and they serve as ways for us to learn about God as we sing about Him.

[THEREFORE]

Why do you think God wants us to sing his truth with others?

Ephesians 5:19 shows us that believers instruct one another through spiritual songs. We sing the truth when we sing spiritual songs and hymns. These hymns and spiritual songs teach and instruct us on who God is and how He interacts with His people. The importance of sharing in the singing of truth is that the body of Christ grows together in Him.

Why does the type of music we listen to and sing matter?

Colossians 3:16 instructs believers to teach one another through spiritual songs and hymns. In order to teach one another the truth through song, we must sing songs full of truth. As we listen and sing songs that are full of God's truth from His Word, we will grow ourselves in our knowledge of the truth and we can instruct others in the truth.

[THIS]

Part of living life with other believers is encouraging one another in different ways. Singing together is an experience that brings people together. As we gather as a body of Christ and sing songs rich in truth about God, we grow together spiritually. When we join together in song and worship God together, we build one another up. Paul encourages the Colossian believers to instruct one another through song. Our corporate worship should be a time of worshipping together and instructing one another in song. We will joyfully do this when we love God's Word because we will understand that the Bible is a gift to every Christ follower and an endless treasure of knowledge about the one true God.

[THEREFORE]

How does singing God's Word help it dwell richly in you?

Psalm 147:1 shows us that it is good for God's people to sing praises to Him. By singing God's Word, we are hiding His Word in our hearts. Psalm 95:1-2 and 150:1-6 show us the value in praising God in song. As we saturate our minds with His Word and sing it, we are letting it dwell in us richly.

How can you seek to love God's Word through singing His praises this week?

1 Corinthians 14:15 teaches us that we can sing with our mouths, minds, and hearts. This means that we can hide God's Word in our hearts in a way that even without making noise, we are singing to Him. Psalm 105:2 and 59:16 teach us to sing of God's mighty works. In order to sing of His works, we must know them through His Word.

3. Colossians 3:16: Our worship should include God's Word in word and song