

JESUS FOLLOWERS EXIST TO PUT GOD'S WORTH ON DISPLAY

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

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS EXIST TO PUT GOD'S WORTH ON DISPLAY

Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 4:1; 2 Corinthians 2:15; Philippians 1:27

BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 1:10

"So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

BIG IDEAS

- We put God's worth on display as we grow in our knowledge of His will.
- We put God's worth on display as we bear fruit in every good work.
- We put God's worth on display as we rest and rejoice in the gospel.

BIBLE PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

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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JESUS FOLLOWERS EXIST TO PUT
GOD'S WORTH ON DISPLAY**BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 1:10**

"So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Believers should live a life pleasing to God.

"So as to walk in a manner worthy of the lord, fully pleasing to Him..."

- Believers are set free from their sin to live for God's glory. Prior to being made new through repentance and faith in Jesus, people cannot live a life pleasing to God. Our sin natures enslave us. The eyes of our hearts are darkened, or blind to the things of God. When we are awakened to God's truth, we are set free to live for Him.
- In order for believers to live godly lives, they must know how to glorify God. By growing in their knowledge and understanding of Christ and what He desires of His followers, believers can live lives that bring God glory.

Believers should bear fruit of their salvation.

"...bearing fruit in every good work..."

- God gifts His people with the Holy Spirit at salvation. The Holy Spirit serves as a guide and teacher to God's people. It is through the Holy Spirit's power working inside of believers that they can bear fruit, or behaviors and attributes that are godly.
- Believers should bear fruit that the Holy Spirit is at work in their lives. As a believer grows in his or her knowledge of God and His will, they will live lives that look more and more like Christ's. When believers bear the fruit of their salvation, they reveal God's worth to the world around them.

Believers should grow in their knowledge and understanding of God.

"...and increasing in the knowledge of God."

- In John 14:6, Jesus says that He is the way to God the Father. Seeking to know Jesus is also the way for believers to know God. Because Jesus is God in the flesh, and now sits at the right hand of God making intercession for His people, knowing Him is the way a believer grows in his or her knowledge of God.
- Our goal as believers is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. In order to glorify God with our lives we must know Him and what He desires of us. In order to enjoy God, we must understand Him. The way for us to do these things is to seek to know Christ through study of His Word and prayer.

JESUS FOLLOWERS EXIST TO PUT GOD'S WORTH ON DISPLAY

BIG IDEA #1: WE PUT GOD'S WORTH ON DISPLAY AS WE GROW IN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL.¹

[THIS]

Paul's prayer for the Colossian believers in chapter one of Colossians is that they would grow in their knowledge of Christ's will. In order for God's people to know His will, they must know Him. In order for believers to know God, we must know Christ. Paul implies in Colossians 1:9-10 that their goal should be to grow in spiritual wisdom and knowledge. We should desire to understand God more. We should also desire to grow in spiritual wisdom so that we might show the world the value and worth that God has in our lives. Spiritual wisdom and knowledge are given by the Holy Spirit. We bring God glory when we seek His kingdom and righteousness. When we live lives that are seeking God above all else, the world around us sees the worth of God.

[THEREFORE]

How can we grow in our knowledge of God's will?

By studying God's Word, or the Bible, we can grow in our knowledge of God's will. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 teaches us that God's Word is at work inside of His people. By studying Scripture, we can grow in understanding what God has called us to. 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us to know God's Word that we might live lives pleasing to God.

How can we tell if we are growing in our knowledge of God's will?

Matthew 5:6 teaches that those who hunger for God's righteousness will be filled with it. Psalm 1:1-3 reminds us that those who seek to know God's Word and meditate on it grow in their wisdom and understanding. When we notice our attitudes and behaviors aligning more with God's Word, we know that we are growing spiritually and in our understanding of God's will.

[THIS]

In Colossians 1:10, Paul explains why believers should pursue a greater knowledge of God's will. We are all called to live a life that glorifies God. In order to do so, we must not remain as infants in our understanding of God's will. We must mature in our faith by growing in our understanding of who God is and what He requires of us. Pursuing a knowledge of God results in a growth in our spiritual wisdom and knowledge. We understand the world around us and our place in it more and more as we seek to know God. We understand ourselves when we understand God. Believers reveal God's worth as they make pursuing Him their life's goal.

[THEREFORE]

Read Colossians 1:9-10. Practically, how can our lives put God's worth on display for others to see?

In Matthew 5:16, we see that when we seek God's glory, we show His worth to others by our obedience to Him. 1 Peter 1:14-15 teaches us to be holy because God is holy. When we seek to obey God in these things, people in the world around us will see that what we value above all else is God and His work in our lives. When we spend time in prayer and study His Word, we will show people what is important to us and that we value our relationship with God above all else.

1. Colossians 1:9-10: By seeking to know Christ, we grow in our understanding of Him and bring Him glory in the world around us.

JESUS FOLLOWERS EXIST TO PUT
GOD'S WORTH ON DISPLAY**BIG IDEA #2: WE PUT GOD'S WORTH ON DISPLAY AS WE BEAR FRUIT IN EVERY GOOD WORK.²****[THIS]**

God's gift of the Holy Spirit to His people enables them to grow in their spiritual understanding. As the Holy Spirit works inside of our lives, we will bear fruit that reveals we are in Christ. This means we will behave and live in such a way that is pleasing to God. Paul speaks to this in Colossians 1:10 when he says to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord...bearing fruit in every good work. Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruit of the Spirit that believers exhibit throughout their lives. These attributes aren't necessarily natural to us prior to our salvation. Though we may be patient, kind, and loving at times, these aren't things that are consistently true of our flesh natures. Paul teaches us in these verses that there is a connection with growing in understanding of God and the fruit we bear. When we seek God and bear fruit, we show the world around us just how worthy God is and His power to transform our lives.

[THEREFORE]

Read Galatians 5:22-23. What is the fruit of the Spirit and how do we grow in it?

Paul lists the result of walking in and being led by the Holy Spirit in these verses. Abiding in the Spirit produces a life that is characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Paul's list in these verses are things that are always true of the Holy Spirit and a fruit, or result of growing in the Spirit is that these things will be true of our lives. The more we walk in obedience to God's Word the more we will grow in the fruit of the Spirit.

What is the connection between abiding in Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit?

In John 15, Jesus teaches that He is the vine, or the source from which believers learn and grow. It is a believer's connection to Christ that enables them to bear fruit. By bearing fruit, they reveal to the world that they indeed know Christ and have been transformed by Him. 2 Peter 3:18 teaches us to grow in our spiritual knowledge that we might live pleasing lives to God. When we know Christ, we will bear fruit. The more we know Him, the more we will bear fruit of knowing Him.

[THIS]

In Colossians 1:11, Paul explains the way in which believers can bear fruit in every good work. As believers rely upon the Holy Spirit, their once sinful lives are transformed into holy lives that reflect God to the world. Paul implies in the latter part of verse 11 that believers are strengthened by their increasing knowledge of God in order to persevere in this life with patience and joy. We cannot bear fruit in our own power, nor can we endure this life without the power of God's Spirit working inside of us. We tap into this power as we pursue a deeper knowledge and understanding of who God is and how He works in our lives. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can bear fruit in any situation and we will do the good works that God has called us to.

[THEREFORE]

Read Galatians 5:24. What is the greatest challenge to bearing fruit as a Jesus follower?

In Matthew 26:41, Jesus teaches that His followers should watch and pray so that they don't fall to temptation. Proverbs 6:28 reminds us of the danger of placing ourselves in situations that do tempt us. We can be drawn away from growing spiritually by the temptation of worldly things. When we do not live a cross-centered life, it will be challenging to bear the fruit of the Spirit. Living a cross-centered life means living for Jesus daily and not being distracted by the things of this world.

How does the Holy Spirit help us to bear fruit and how do we submit to His help?

In Isaiah 11:2 and Ezekiel 36:26-27, we see that the Holy Spirit serves as a guide and helper to God's people. When we understand the Holy Spirit's purpose, we can rely upon His power to help us please God. In Romans 8:26, we see that the Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. As we focus on daily submitting to the Holy Spirit, we will grow in the fruit we bear.

2. Colossians 1:10-11: We are commanded to bear fruit of the salvation that God has given us. We give God glory when we do this.

JESUS FOLLOWERS EXIST TO PUT GOD'S WORTH ON DISPLAY

BIG IDEA #3: WE PUT GOD'S WORTH ON DISPLAY AS WE REST AND REJOICE IN THE GOSPEL.³

[THIS]

To truly display God's worth in the world, we must first comprehend the depths of His grace and mercy towards sinners. In Colossians 1:13, Paul reminds the Colossians of God's great mercy and grace and of their position prior to knowing Christ. We are all born into darkness. Because of our sin natures, we are blinded to the things of God and we live futile, pointless lives seeking to please ourselves. No one is born seeking God in his or her own power. We all reject God and pursue our own glory and happiness. But God in His great mercy and grace, delivered His people from the domain of darkness. God set them free from the futility of their sin through the blood of Jesus on the cross. Because we are free from our sin and transformed into new beings, we can rest in this salvation. When we rest in God's salvation, we show the world around us the value and worth that God has.

[THEREFORE]

Knowing that you are set free from your sin, how can you rest in this truth in your everyday life?

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus invites people to come to Him for rest. Our sin nature is a burden and heavy yoke upon our lives. Jesus offers us rest from that yoke as because He took on our sin debt and paid it in full with His life. We can do nothing to earn our salvation and once we are saved, we do not have to continue doing good in order to keep our salvation. We can rest in the gift of new life offered to us by Jesus.

[THIS]

Colossians 1:13-14 shows us that we are not only set free from our sin natures, but we become citizens of God's eternal kingdom. This truth should produce rejoicing in the heart of every believer. When we seek to know Christ and meditate on His redemption of us, our hearts will sing with joy and we will rejoice that we are no longer living in darkness, but are abiding in the light. As we live lives that rejoice at our salvation, the world around us will see the value and worth of God. We will make God known when we remind ourselves of our salvation and rejoice that we are free forever.

[THEREFORE]

How can the truth that Christ has set your free from slavery to sin lead you to rejoice in Him today?

Psalms 95:1 reveals the way God's salvation produces rejoicing in the heart of a believer. 1 Peter 1:3-5 is also an example of how this truth leads us to rejoice and praise God's name. When we understand that we have been delivered from our sin, we will rejoice in him.

What are some obstacles you are facing this week that are keeping you from resting and rejoicing in the Gospel?

In Luke 12:22-23, Jesus teaches that our lives are more than our food and clothing, yet it is these things that can distract us from living with joy in our hearts. Our sin, which has made the world groan, makes us worry and hinders us from having joy in Jesus. Because we can place more value on worldly than they are worth, our joy in Jesus is hindered.

3. Colossians 1:13-14: God delivered us from our sin and transformed our lives in Christ.