

WE ARE RAISED WITH CHRIST

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

BIG TRUTH: WE ARE RAISED WITH CHRIST

Romans 6:4; Ephesians 2:6; 4:17, 23-24

BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 3:1

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

BIG IDEAS

- Being raised with Christ redirects our desires.
- Being raised with Christ transforms our thinking.
- Being raised with Christ compels us to live today in light of Jesus' second coming.

BIBLE PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

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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WE ARE RAISED WITH CHRIST

BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 3:1

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

Believers are raised to a new life in Christ.

"If the you have been raised with Christ..."

- Because Christ's death on the cross fully satisfies the sin debt we owe, He is all we need for salvation. Through Him we receive freedom to live for God and we are given new life. This means that our hearts are transformed from broken, spiritually dead hearts to new hearts awakened to the truths of God.
- Just as Christ was raised from the dead after His crucifixion, we are raised to new life when we have saving faith. We are no longer spiritually dead, but instead, we are alive in Him and we become God's children.

Believers are to direct their thoughts to a deeper knowledge of Christ.

"...seek the things that are above, where Christ is..."

- As followers of Christ, we are to set our minds to the things of Christ. This means that we should discipline ourselves to direct our thoughts to a greater knowledge and understanding of Christ. Because Christ is all we need, knowing about Him is what helps us to mature spiritually and to walk in obedience to Christ.
- In order to seek the things above, we must train ourselves to think on the things of God. By seeking a deeper knowledge of Christ, our thoughts will be directed to Him and the things above.

Christ is seated in a position of authority.

"...where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

- Christ is seated at the right hand of God in a position of authority because He is King of all. Christ sitting at the right hand of God means that He works as our intercessor, working on the behalf of believers. Christ is the way that we know God.
- Christ holds a position of authority because He is fully God. Through His death, Jesus defeated death and our sin. This means that He holds authority over our sin and through our life in Him, we have that same authority to defeat our sin daily.

BIG IDEA #1: BEING RAISED WITH CHRIST REDIRECTS OUR DESIRES.¹**[THIS]**

In Colossians 3:1 when Paul refers to believers being raised with Christ, he is tying this truth to the reality that we are all born spiritually dead presented in Colossians 2:13-14. We are all spiritually dead because we are inherently sinful. This means our natural selves are sinful. We do not seek God in our own power. Instead, we are born following the darkness of this world as our broken hearts lead us away from God and toward our death and destruction. It is our sin nature that enslaves us and keeps us from knowing God. Our desires are for the temporal, perishable things of this world. Our focus is on the here and now and not eternal things. Our hearts are tied to this world and though God has made Himself known through creation itself, we are blinded by our sin and do not acknowledge Him.

[THEREFORE]

What are some temporal things that you are tempted to desire over Christ?

Psalm 119:18 reveals to us that we need God to open our eyes to see Him. Because we are blinded by our sin, our desires are earthly. 1 John 2:16 teaches us that we should not love the things of the world or put our hope in them, such as money, material things, or even success as defined by the world.

[THIS]

In Colossians 3:3, Paul reminds the Colossian believers that being raised with Christ means dying to our old life and the desires that come with it. Being in Christ means our eyes are opened to Christ and His truth. Because we are no longer blinded by this world, we are free to follow Christ. The desires of our hearts change as we follow Christ and grow in Him. Reading and studying His Word help us set our desires and affections on Him. Because being in Christ means we all have the Holy Spirit, our hearts are changed each day as we seek to grow in Him. The more we learn about Him, the more we love Him. The more we love Him, the more our desires, affections, and feelings will center on Him.

[THEREFORE]

Practically, how do we begin to love the things of God more, and the things of the world less?

In 1 Chronicles 22:19, we see God's people commanded to seek God with all of their heart because this how His people can please Him. Proverbs 23:26 also says for God's people to give their hearts to Him. When we diligently seek the Lord with all of our heart, we will know Him and love Him. Then our desires and affections will be placed on Him and we will love Him more than we love worldly things.

In what ways do you struggle to die to earthly desires?

In Luke 9:23, Jesus teaches that in order to truly follow Him, we must deny ourselves. Matthew 26:41 shows us that our flesh is tempting and can lead us to sin against God. In order to die to ourselves, we must use the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome temptations and to keep ourselves from sinning.

1. Colossians 3:1,3: Because Jesus defeated our sin and death on the cross, we are raised to new life through Him.

BIG IDEA #2: BEING RAISED WITH CHRIST TRANSFORMS OUR THINKING.²**[THIS]**

In order for our desires to be redirected, our thoughts must be transformed. In Colossians 3:2, Paul instructs the Colossians to direct their thoughts to things above. We think about what we put into our minds and hearts. When we focus our thoughts on the world around us, we will think about this world. Believers are not to live according to this world, but according to God's Word. We do this by intentionally directing our thoughts with purpose. We cannot take it for granted that our thoughts will naturally flow toward the things of God. We battle our flesh nature until we reach heaven where we are fully sanctified and receive our glorified bodies. Until then, we must direct our thoughts to the things of God by knowing His Word and seeking to grow in Him.

[THEREFORE]

What habits can you establish to help direct your thoughts to the things of Christ?

In Matthew 6:22-24, Jesus warns that our eyes are the lamp of our bodies. This means that what we choose to look at enters our thoughts and can be all-consuming. 2 Corinthians 10:5 teaches us that we can overcome sin by taking our thoughts captive. We take our thoughts captive by walking in the power of the Holy Spirit and committing ourselves to daily prayer. Romans 12:2 shows us the importance of being transformed by renewing our minds in God's truth, which is His Word.

What activities do you need to stop in order to direct your thoughts to eternal things?

Philippians 4:8 teaches us to think on things that are pure, honest, and true. If there are things in our lives that we do or watch that lead us to impure and dishonest thoughts, we should remove those things from our lives. Galatians 5:19-21 teaches us what the works of the flesh are. If we're engaging in activities that lead us to think on these things or to seek these things, we should remove those activities from our lives.

[THIS]

In Colossians 3:2, when Paul says "things above", he is referring to the kingdom of God. In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He tells His listeners to seek His kingdom first.³ To seek the kingdom of God first is to focus our mind on our eternal home, not our current one. It means that our lives are intentionally lived for the building of God's kingdom and not for this world. When we direct our minds on eternal things, our hearts will follow. We'll pursue obedience as we seek things that are part of our eternity, which is the kingdom of God.

[THEREFORE]

Read Matthew 6:19-21, 24-33. What are some challenges to seeking things that are above?

Jesus teaches that the cares of this world can hinder us from seeking His kingdom. When we turn our eyes on material things or even our daily lives, our thoughts are focused on temporal things. Instead, Jesus taught that His people should trust Him for their daily needs and focus their minds and hearts on His kingdom. By determining to seek the things above first, we can live seeking God's kingdom and trusting Jesus for all that we need to accomplish His purposes for us in this life.

2. Colossians 3:2: Because we have new life with Christ, our thoughts are redirected.

3. Matthew 6:33: Jesus teaches that His people should seek first the kingdom of God.

BIG IDEA #3: BEING RAISED WITH CHRIST COMPELS US TO LIVE TODAY IN LIGHT OF JESUS' SECOND COMING.⁴**[THIS]**

In Colossians 3:3, Paul says believers' lives are "hidden with Christ". This means believers are held fast in God's hands and nothing can separate them from God's love. Believers enjoy a salvation that is secure in Christ. Once we have experienced saving faith and the forgiveness of our sin debt, we are always forgiven. There is never anything we can do to take away the forgiveness that is found in Christ. This security gives us hope for our future. Just as Christ was raised from the dead, His people will be resurrected to their eternal life with Him. We can rest in this truth and look forward to His second coming. Christ's second coming ushers in our eternal life that means no more sorrow, death, or sin. Because Christ has given us spiritual life here on earth, we can look forward to eternal life with Him.

[THEREFORE]**How does the promise that Jesus is coming again give us hope?**

Acts 24:15 reminds us that our hope is in the resurrection to eternal life promised to every follower of Christ. 1 Peter 1:3 teaches us that we are all raised with Christ to a new life here on earth and we hope in our resurrection to eternity. Romans 6:5 serves as a promise that we will be like Him in being resurrected to our eternal home in our glorified bodies.

When you think about Jesus coming again, what excites you? What scares you?

1 John 2:28 shows us that we can be confident in the second coming of Christ when we live obedient lives for God. Hebrews 9:28 teaches us that we can eagerly await Christ's second coming because it means the beginning of our eternal life with Him in heaven where there is no more sorrow, sin, or pain. Revelations 22:12 shows us that when Christ returns again, He will repay people for their actions on this earth. If we do not live for Him, we have much to fear, but if we do live with Him, we have only hope and rejoicing.

[THIS]

Receiving new life in Christ changes us. We are compelled as His people to live for Him in our daily lives here on earth and to look forward to His return. As we live for Him, we set our minds on His second coming. Being raised with Christ means we anticipate His return because this is when we will see His kingdom ushered in for all of eternity. The desire of our hearts should be for Christ's kingdom to come. Just Jesus taught His disciples to pray for His Kingdom to come, we should desire and pray for His second coming. The second coming of Christ means the completion of our sanctification and the beginning of our eternity with Him. In Colossians 3:4, Paul teaches the Colossian believers that Christ's second coming means that believers will appear in glory with Christ. This is our hope—the return of Christ and the beginning of our forever.

[THEREFORE]**What distracts you from living in light of Jesus' second coming?**

Often the things of this world can distract us from living fully for Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:17 shows us that the trials and troubles of this world can distract us from the hope we have in being in glory with Christ. 1 Corinthians 13:12 shows us that now we see dimly, but one day we will see clearly. Because we still battle with our flesh nature, we battle to keep our hearts and minds longing for Christ's return.

How can you live today in the hope that Christ will return one day?

James 1:12 shows us that there is reward for those who remain steadfast in this life. Hebrews 12:1 encourages believers to set their minds on Christ's second coming and to remain faithful now. Revelations 3:11 shows us that for those who live today in hope of Christ's second coming will live for Him on earth and receive their just reward in eternity.

4. Colossians 3:3-4: *Because we receive all life from Christ, we can live looking forward to His second coming.*