

JESUS FOLLOWERS EXIST FOR GOD'S GLORY

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

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS EXIST FOR GOD'S GLORY

Isaiah 66:22; 65:17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:23, 29; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 3:12

BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 3:17

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

BIG IDEAS

- Every moment is an opportunity to live for God's glory.
- We can live for God's glory through our words and deeds.
- We live for God's glory through our relationships.

BIBLE PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 3:18-4:1

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
FOR GOD'S GLORY**BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 3:17**

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

All that believers do should be done for God's glory.

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus..."

- Paul teaches the Colossian believers how to live the Christian life. Living for Christ isn't possible unless we recognize and understand that our prime purpose is to glorify God with our lives. Paul teaches that everything a believer does should be done for God's glory.
- All things are created for God's glory. All life comes from God and is made for Him. All that we do should be done with the goal of bringing God glory. We should seek to please Him and obey Him so that we might bring Him glory.

Believers' words and deeds should be done in the name of Jesus.

"...in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus..."

- All that we do should be done for God's glory. Our words and deed being done in the name of Jesus means seeking His glory in all things. This means no matter what we do or say, we should always consider if our words or actions will bring God glory.
- This is what believers should do, but it's impossible to do separate from God. Apart from abiding in Christ, we cannot glorify God. If we try to live holy lives without relying upon God's Spirit, we will always fall short. In order to live for the name of Jesus, we must rely upon Jesus by abiding in Him.

Believers should live grateful lives and be thankful for all that God does.

"...do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

- God is a faithful God who loves steadfastly. His people should live grateful lives and always have thanksgiving in their hearts. When we live grateful lives, we will seek to glorify Him with our words and through our actions.
- As we seek to be grateful for all that God has done for us, we will obey Him out of a growing love for Him. We will live in the truth that God has rescued us and forgiven us when we least deserved it. In addition to rescuing us, He also blesses us abundantly and always provides for us.

JESUS FOLLOWERS EXIST FOR GOD'S GLORY

BIG IDEA #1: EVERY MOMENT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE FOR GOD'S GLORY.¹

[THIS]

Paul teaches in Colossians 3:17 that every moment of our lives is a chance for us to bring God glory. This means that every attitude, behavior, and action can and should please God and reflect an accurate picture of Him in the world. Because the purpose of man is to glorify God, every single thing we do should be honoring to God. He is the Creator of all things and has created mankind to reflect His glory to the world. Those whom God has reconciled to Himself are especially called to reveal His glory to the lost world around them. Because glorifying God is our created purpose, this should be our goal. We should enter into every situation and face every circumstance desiring God to be honored and made known in the world.

[THEREFORE]

What are some obstacles that distract you from seeking God's glory in every moment?

In Titus 3:3-7, we are reminded of our mindset before knowing Christ. It is this flesh nature that continues to battle against us and pull us away from seeking God's glory even when we are believers. We are distracted by the desires of our sinful flesh that wage war against us. Matthew 6:24 reminds us that we cannot serve two masters. This means that we cannot concern ourselves with material things because this will keep us from seeking God's glory in everything.

[THIS]

All people are image bearers of God, but believers are bearing the image of God that is being renewed by His Spirit. Believers have a greater responsibility to reflect God's image because of the power of the Holy Spirit inside of them. Prior to knowing Christ, it is impossible to please Him, but after saving faith, those who are in Christ can obey Him and honor Him through the power of the Holy Spirit. In order to honor Christ in every way, our focus must shift from pleasing ourselves to pleasing God. Every moment in our lives is an opportunity to honor God. When our focus is on Him, we will see these opportunities and seek to obey His Word. We will live for Him alone no matter the circumstances of our life.

[THEREFORE]

In what situations do you seek your own glory above God's glory?

1 Corinthians 10:24 tells us that believers should seek the good of their neighbors, or others rather than their own good. When we shift our focus away from God's glory, we will put ourselves first. Philippians 2:4 also reminds us that seeking God's glory involves thinking of others first rather than ourselves first. Galatians 5:26 teaches us that it is our pride and conceit that leads us to provoke others. When we allow our flesh to rule us, we will not seek God's glory, but our own.

How can you seek God's glory in all ways this week?

When we turn the eyes of our hearts to God in every way, we will focus on His glory. By trusting Him in every situation, we can seek His glory no matter what. Proverbs 3:5 teaches us we should trust in Him in every situation. Psalm 37:4-6 also teaches us to delight in Him, trust Him, and commit our lives to Him. This will bring joy to us and help us glorify Him in every way.

1. Colossians 3:17: All that believers do should be for God's glory. Their lives are meant to be lived for His glory always and in every way.

JESUS FOLLOWERS EXIST
FOR GOD'S GLORY**BIG IDEA #2: WE CAN LIVE FOR GOD'S GLORY THROUGH WORDS AND DEEDS.²****[THIS]**

In Colossians 3:17, Paul makes a distinction between our words and our deeds. Our words hold great significance because they impact people around us. It's easy to use our words to promote ourselves. We can puff ourselves up or make ourselves seem like more than we are. We can even use our speech in a way that makes people believe we are more Godly or religious than our actions reveal. Our words matter. With words we can tear down or build up. We can deflate people or fill them up. If we want to glorify God with our words, then we must seek to first listen and second speak. Our speech should be filled with words that please God and that encourage others. We should not seek to honor ourselves or to tear down others, even those who have hurt us. If we truly trust God and seek His glory, we will leave justice to Him and we will instead seek to speak the truth in love and to encourage others to serve God.

[THEREFORE]**How have you been guilty of carelessness with your words?**

Ephesians 4:29 teaches us that we should guard our mouths in a way that keeps us from speaking corruptly. What we say matters to God and to the world around us. Matthew 15:11 reminds us that what comes out of our mouths can reveal what is truly in our hearts. Proverbs 15:4 shows us that perverseness can break a spirit, but a gentle tongue acts as a tree of life. Our words matter greatly in the kingdom of God.

How can our words make much of Jesus this week?

Psalms 95:1-3 shows us what it looks like to make much of Jesus through our words. As we praise Him with our words, we will glorify Him in the world. We can also make much of Jesus by choosing to season our speech with salt and to not follow the pattern of the world's speech. Ephesians 4:29 and Colossians 4:6 teach us to turn away from corrupting talk that is common in the world.

[THIS]

Our deeds or actions impact the world around us. If our actions do not match our words, we present a false picture of Christ to the world and influence the way the world views God. Our actions should bring God glory always no matter our circumstances or situation because every believer has the power of the Holy Spirit to help them. Even our actions done in secret or when we're alone matter because they lead toward our Christ-likeness or our worldliness. Our deeds affect our spiritual life and the influence we have with others. When we live for Christ in word and deed, we show the world the power of the Holy Spirit to enable sinful people to glorify God. Our goal should be to live holy lives that honor God always.

[THEREFORE]**How do your words and deeds not match in your daily life?**

1 John 4:20 teaches us that if we do not love others and say we love God, we are liars. Often our words and deeds do not match up when we evaluate the way we treat others. Even the way we think of others can reveal that our hearts are far from God. Proverbs 10:12 tells us that love covers offenses. When we live seeking to please God in word and deed, we will obey His commands and our lives will reveal that we love God and others.

What is something that you can choose to do this week for God's glory?

In Galatians 1:10, Paul speaks about the temptation of people to seek others' approval. If we live our lives seeking the approval of our friends over the approval of God, we will not live for God's glory like we could. Living for God's glory means seeking to please Him above all others. Matthew 6:33 tells us to seek the kingdom of God first. By doing this we will live for God's glory because obeying Him will be first and foremost on our minds. When we begin our days seeking to do what pleases Him, our words and deeds will glorify Him.

2. Colossians 3:17-18: Our words and deeds should bring God honor and glory. Through His Spirit, we can glorify Him in every way.

JESUS FOLLOWERS EXIST
FOR GOD'S GLORY**BIG IDEA #3: WE LIVE FOR GOD'S GLORY THROUGH OUR RELATIONSHIPS.³****[THIS]**

In Colossians 3:18-21 Paul teaches the way believers can and should live for God's glory in their relationships. Family should reflect God's image to the world because it is created by Him and given to us to help us bring Him glory. Paul addresses the purpose of marriage in Colossians 3:18-21 when he discusses the created order and the way in which husbands and wives are to live with one another. He also teaches how children can glorify God through their obedience to their parents and by showing them respect. When we seek to please God in our family relationships, we reflect God's glory to the world. People who do not know Christ can see Him at work in our hearts and lives as we seek God's glory above even our own comfort.

[THEREFORE]

How can you reflect God's glory in your interaction with your family this week?

Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:1 show us that children are to obey and honor their parents. This command is from God and is what pleases Him most. When children, no matter their age, respect their parents, God is glorified. Proverbs 13:1 teaches us that children should heed their parents' instruction. This is part of God's created plan and order, that parents should guide and teach their children.

How do you struggle to live for God's glory in front of others?

In John 15:18, Jesus teaches that the world hated Him and it will hate His followers. Often, we struggle to live out our faith because we do not want to be hated. We like to be accepted. Mark 8:38 teaches us that there is a temptation to find the Gospel and our faith embarrassing, especially if we think it will make us stand out. Finally, James 1:14 reminds us that we are drawn away from following Christ by our evil desires.

[THIS]

In Colossians 3:22-4:1, Paul instructs the Colossian believers how to live as bondservants with one another. While we do not literally live in the bondage of slavery, there is application from these verses to our daily lives. Bondservants are under the authority and rule of someone else. We all live under the rule or authority of someone. For some of us it is an employer or boss. For others, it's teachers and a principal. These relationships demand our obedience to God. As we joyfully submit ourselves to the authorities over us, we will glorify God. Even if we do not necessarily like the people in authority over us, we can still submit to their authority and position. Doing this brings God glory and shows the world the power of God's Spirit at work in us.

[THEREFORE]

Read Romans 13:1-7. How do you struggle to live for God's glory by showing honor to the authorities in your life?

This passage teaches us that it brings God glory to obey the authorities over us. This doesn't mean that we disobey God in order to obey authorities, but it does mean that when we can do so without breaking God's Word, we should obey the rulers in authority over us. By obeying the authorities over us, we show that we trust God to care for us and to watch out for us. Often submitting to the authorities in our lives can be challenging because will not like everything they say or do. We may not even respect them, but we should obey them.

How can you seek to glorify God at school and/or your job this week?

1 Peter 2:13-15 teaches us to be subject to all ruling authorities in our lives. When we do this, we show we trust God's plan and we believe that He will watch out for His people. Romans 12:17 tells us to not return evil for evil, but to treat people with honor. When we treat the authorities in our lives with honor, we glorify God.

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