

Colossians 1:9-14

“Now What? GROW and GLOW!”

Scripture: Colossians 1:9-14

Memory Verse: Colossians 1:10 “...walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”

Lesson Focus: Continuing in our “*Jesus is Risen! Now What?*” theme, we will give the kids two more answers to this question. These few verses show that the Christian is to 1) GROW in their devotion to Jesus and to 2) GLOW in amazement and thanksgiving for what Jesus has done for them. We will use sunflowers to illustrate both of these points.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Jesus Growing, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Make It Real Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: I’m Growing in Jesus

Starter Activity: Brain Teasers

In our Bible lesson today, one thing stressed is the importance of GROWING in wisdom and knowledge of our God and Savior. Growing in wisdom and knowledge requires us to use our brains and THINK. Pick a few of these brain teasers and put them on the whiteboard and see if the kids can figure them out.

#1

MAN

BOARD

(man overboard)

#2

PLEASE

(pretty please)

#3

XQQQQME

(excuse me)

#4

BAN ANA

(banana split)

#5

GESG

(scrambled eggs)

#6

NAFISH
NAFISH

(tunafish)

Bible Study:

Remember that this book of Colossians is a personal letter written by the apostle Paul to believers just like you and me to a church just like RMC. They, like many of us, have believed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and now may be wondering, “**NOW WHAT?**” We will continually ask that question as we study through this book.

Colossians 1:9a: Remember Paul is in jail when he is writing this letter.

Q: What did he say he is doing for these believers? PRAYING!

Colossians 1:9b: Paul is asking God for something very specific here.

He wants them to know and understand what God wants from them (His will for them).

Q: How do we know what God wants from us?

A: He has told us in the Bible! Only through reading and hearing His word can we expect to know what He wants.

As an example, read **1 Thessalonians 5:18** which says, “*In everything give thanks for this is **God’s will** for you in Christ Jesus.*”

Q: So according to this do you think God wants us to be thankful? YES!

Colossians 1:10: It is one thing to know what God wants, it is another thing to actually listen and obey. * Paul wants them to know SO THAT they would GROW.

Q1: What are some things that GROW? A: Living things like plants and people.

Q2: What do they need to GROW? A: Nutrients like water, sunshine, healthy food, etc.

Teachers: Consider bringing in a wild sunflower for the lesson and refer to it as something that grows. There are millions of them growing wild right now and you should be able to grab one to help the kids visualize something that “grows and glows”. *

Paul lists three ways in which he wants them (and us) to GROW:

1) Walking with Jesus, pleasing Him

Q: Have you ever noticed how a sunflower grows TOWARD the sun?

It is like the sun is the flower’s master! In the same way, we are not to just grow, but to grow TOWARD Jesus, our Master, pleasing Him in all we do. *

2) Bearing Fruit

Q: What does a healthy sunflower produce? Seeds (fruit)! (**Teachers:** We will provide you with some sunflower seeds to share with kids).

In the same way, if we are GROWING we will bear fruit that is a blessing to others. *

3) Knowing God more

Q: Will a sunflower grow if it doesn’t have sunshine, water, good soil? No!

In the same way, we will only GROW as much as we know God and His word. *

Colossians 1:11: Paul continues his prayer that they would be strong! Notice where the power comes from in this verse!

Q: Does it come from us? No! Our strength is according to God's power!

Q: Have you ever seen those really, really big sunflowers that tower over you?

(Teachers: Consider showing the picture on the last page of the lesson)

God will make you strong just like one of those big sunflowers, but only as you continue to 1) please Jesus, 2) bear fruit, and 3) be nourished in His word!

Colossians 1:12: Here is "giving thanks" once again.

Q1: What does it mean to be qualified? A: It means you meet all of the rules and requirements for something really good. *

Q2: What is the "really good" thing that God qualifies us for?

A: Heaven! Heaven is described here as an inheritance.

Q3: What is an inheritance?

A: Something people freely receive when someone dies, usually a family member. If you had a really rich uncle with no kids, what would happen to all of his riches when he dies? Someone, maybe you, will "inherit" it!

Boys and girls: When Jesus Christ died and rose again, God's forever riches were offered to the whole world and through simple faith in Jesus they become yours!

Q: Have you ever noticed how a sunflower just GLOWS with light on those hot summer days? God would have us GLOW with thanksgiving for He has qualified us for heaven by His grace through our simple faith and trust in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:13: God has delivered or *rescued* believers from the power of darkness! *

Q: What does it mean to be rescued? A: To be saved from danger!

Boys and girls: We GLOW because God not only offers us what we DON'T deserve (heaven) but He rescues us from what we DO deserve (hell). *

Colossians 1:14: Here we see the cost of our rescue. God did not just snap His fingers and forgive everyone's sins. No, sin must be punished because God is just and holy.

Q: How many of you have ever been grounded (or given "time out")? Why?

A: Because you broke the rules! You got punished and you deserved that punishment! That is justice! But afterwards, your parents forgive you and you are then free, right? *

Boys and girls: In God's eyes, we all deserve to be "grounded" in hell because we have broken His rules. Such a punishment is just and fair because WE ARE GUILTY!

But when Jesus died on the cross something AMAZING happened. God says to us, “*You are grounded*”. But for those who believe and trust in Jesus Christ, He steps in and says, “*I will take their punishment upon myself.*” Jesus’s death on the cross satisfied God’s anger at our sin and thus our sins can be forgiven!

That is what the Bible means when it says we have forgiveness of sins “through His blood.” His blood was shed on the cross so that we might have our sins forgiven!

How? Through simple faith, trust, and belief in Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection.

Key Point: So when you look back at Jesus’s death and resurrection, and wonder “**Now What?**” you should have two more answers.

1) GLOW

- Like a sunflower, GLOW with amazement that Jesus Christ shed His blood for your sins. GLOW with thanksgiving and praise because He paid the price that you could not pay!

2) GROW

- 1) Please Jesus as your master just like the sunflower grows toward the sun.
- 2) Bear fruit just like a sunflower produces yummy seeds that bless others.
- 3) Read and listen to God’s word just like a sunflower bakes in the sun.

Bring It Home

Lesson Theme: “Now What? GROW and GLOW”

Scripture: Colossians 1:9-14

Memory Verse: Colossians 1:10 “...walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”

Teachers/Parents: As we walk through the book of Colossians we plan to continually connect it back to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (which we just finished studying in the gospel of John) by asking the question, “*Now What?*” This letter from Paul helps us answer this question and one of the answers we emphasized today was that we GROW. Have some discussion on things that GROW and what is needed before these things can GROW. What happens if they don’t get those things?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) **Read 2 Peter 3:18.** What does Peter emphasize believers should grow in? Just as living things needs certain nutrients to grow, what do you think we need to grow in these things?
- 2) **In Colossians 1:10,** Paul stresses that they be fruitful in every good work. Healthy fruit trees produce fruit! If we are to be healthy Christians we should also bear fruit that brings blessings to others. What are some practical ways that you can be fruitful in your daily walk with the Lord this week?
- 3) Sometimes we look at verses like **Colossians 1:10** and think we have to be good and do things to earn God’s love and favor. But read **Colossians 1:11-12.** Who is the One who qualifies us to be in God’s love and favor?
- 4) The second answer we discussed to our “*Now What?*” question is GLOW. According to v. 12 we are to GLOW in astonishment and thanksgiving at what God has done for us! Do you have a glow about you when you stop and consider what Jesus Christ death and resurrection means to you? Why or why not?
- 5) **Read Colossians 1:13.** What kind of kingdom did God, through Jesus Christ, rescue us from? **Read Colossians 1:14.** What did it cost God to rescue us from this kingdom?
- 6) While God has saved us from the kingdom of sin and darkness, we still must live in it. God would call us to GLOW in this dark world so that others might also be rescued from darkness and into His kingdom. **Read Matthew 5:14-16.** What are some ways that you can GLOW this week towards those around you?

