

Colossians 3:1-10

“Now What? Put Off and Put On!”

Scripture: Colossians 3:1-10

Memory Verse: Romans 13:14 *“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”*

Lesson Focus: Continuing in our “*Jesus is Risen! Now What?*” theme, our answer this week is “**Put Off and Put On**”. The rest of this letter to the Colossians focuses on practical Christian living as our response to what God has done for us. We will use the familiar activity of dressing-up to teach the kids to very practically PUT OFF the old and PUT ON the new, but always from a heart of love for Jesus.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Memory Verse, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: I can Bee like Jesus

Starter Activity: Dressing Up

We will leverage the familiar activity of “dressing up” to introduce our lesson. First ask the kids about where they have to “PUT ON” certain special clothes (some ideas below):

- 1) Wedding (fancy clothes or gown if you’re the bride)
- 2) Swimming Pool (swimsuit)
- 3) Karate (Gi with your colored belt)

Halloween is coming up where they will be “PUTTING ON” costumes. Consider asking the kids what they will be pretending to be and “PUTTING ON” for Halloween.

Many of the kids might be too old to play “dress-up” now, but ask them what they may have pretended to be when they played “dress-up” as kids (i.e. superheroes, princesses, etc.). *

Q: Why did you “dress-up” and “PUT ON” clothes to pretend to be those characters?

A: Because you looked up to them and you wanted to be like them!

In the same way, God wants us to look up to Jesus as our HERO and be more like Him! As our memory verses says, we are to “PUT HIM ON”. Though this doesn’t mean we put on a Jesus costume every day!

But then what does it mean? Let’s open our Bibles and find out!

Bible Study:

Colossians 3:1a: “If then” you have been raised with Christ...

This verse marks a major transition in this letter. We are at the halfway point. The first half focused mostly on who God is and what He has done for us. As a review we’ve seen how we say “WHOA” at Who Jesus is and are to KNOW and GLOW at what He has done for us.

“If you have been raised with Christ” refers back to **Colossians 2:12-13** and baptism which we talked about last week. Baptism represents your death to the old life of sin (buried in the water) and your new life in Christ (coming out of the water clean). *

Think of yourself as a player that has been traded from one team to another. Jesus has taken you from the “Sinners” team and put you on His team, the “Saved”! The first half of this letter is about that trade which happened the moment you put your faith in Him. The second half of this letter is about the training on this new team!

Colossians 3:1b-2: If Jesus is our new coach and leader, we must look to where He is: heaven!

Q: What are some things that you get super-excited about? (i.e. birthday parties, Christmas gifts, beach vacations, etc.) There is nothing wrong with these things, but don’t you think being with Jesus in heaven is going to be better than all of them? *

That is what this verse teaches us! We are to *seek* Him and what He wants more than all of these things on earth! Why? Because He is a million times better than all of them! *

Colossians 3:3: Not only have you died to sin and your old team, but your life BELONGS to Jesus Christ.

Q: What are some things that BELONG to you? (i.e. toys, clothes, etc.) In the same way, when you trusted in Jesus Christ by faith, you became HIS! You are not your own, but BELONG to Him!

Colossians 3:4: Jesus will return in victory! *

Q: Isn’t it better to be on the winning team? You bet!

This verse teaches that all those who are His, those who are on His team will appear with Him in His final victory over Satan, sin, and death! Wow! *

Before we go any further, you need to understand that if you have trusted in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then you are on His team. Even if you still sin and make mistakes (we all do), you are still on His team. He is not going to boot you off of His team because of those mistakes. You are on His team forever!

Colossians 3:5: But now that you are on His team through faith, He has a training program for you. He takes you just as you are, but He loves you too much to leave you just as you are!

This is a list of behaviors (things people do) that Jesus hates and if He hates them, shouldn't we hate them also? Yes! Let's talk about one of these.

Q: What does it mean to covet? A: Wanting something someone else has SO BAD that you will do ANYTHING to get it (maybe even steal or lie). * **Teachers:** Consider sharing a personal story where you coveted something and acted out on that) *

Jesus says we are to put such thoughts to death! What did v. 2 say those on His team should do? Set their mind on Him and His ways! Instead of "I MUST HAVE THAT", you think, "Wait a minute. I've got Jesus now. I DON'T NEED THAT!"

Colossians 3:6: This is what happens to those on the losing team (sons of disobedience) when the game is over!

Q: What does "wrath" mean? Punishment! God is a holy and righteous God and He will punish all sin, evil, and covetousness. And He SHOULD because if He doesn't, then there is no justice! *

Colossians 3:7: Remember all of us were once on this losing team, because all sinned!

Only those who are on Jesus's team escape this punishment because Jesus Christ, God's only Son, took their punishment upon Himself! This humbly reminds us how much God loves us and how much it cost Him to bring us onto His team! (**Romans 5:8**) *

Colossians 3:8: The list continues and here we see the command to PUT OFF.

Q: When someone gets traded to a new team, do you think it is OK if that player is still wearing his old team's jersey? NO WAY! He must PUT OFF that old jersey. That old jersey represents what he or she was.

In the same way, we are to PUT OFF these evil behaviors and attitudes that we may have walked in before we were joined to Jesus Christ through faith. Why? Because we are on Jesus's team now! We live His way now. What He wants is what we want!

Colossians 3:9: PUT OFF lying! That was part of the old person * on the old team!

Q: Why do you think God wants us to PUT OFF lying? A: Because He ONLY tells the truth. The Bible says that God cannot lie. We know deep down inside that lying is wrong.

Colossians 3:10: PUT ON the new person! It is like you have a new team jersey that says, "SAVED" and you are to wear it proudly every day by walking with Jesus. And as you do this, you will be renewed by the Holy Spirit to look more and more like Jesus!

Key Point: Boys and Girls: This message may sound like we are just telling you to be good. If that is what you think, then we are not teaching you well!

What we want more than anything (and what God wants), is that you would believe in Jesus, that you would love Jesus, and that you would look to Jesus as your hero of heroes as you consider what He has done for you on the cross! (**Romans 5:8**)

Remember those days when you played “dress-up” and you would PUT ON a costume to pretend to be like a superhero or a princess? You did this because you ADMIRE the one you were pretending to be. * That is the same way God would have you look to Jesus!

It is only from such a heart of love and admiration for Jesus, that you will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to PUT OFF the old and PUT ON the new. You will WANT to do this because as v. 10 says, being on His team, you will see things more and more the way Jesus sees them.

If you aren't sure if you are on Jesus's team, come and join His team today through faith! Believe in Him for the first time!

If you are already on His team, then believe and admire Him even more!

You don't do this just to be good. You do this because you love Jesus!

Bring It Home

Lesson Theme: “Now What? PUT OFF and PUT ON!”

Scripture: Colossians 3:1-10

Memory Verse: Romans 13:14 *“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”*

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 recently finished studying in the gospel of John) by stating, *“Jesus is Risen! Now What?”* Today our answer was “Put Off and Put On!” What are some everyday things that you “put off” and “put on”?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Something that most kids have experienced is playing dress-up. In class, we talked about how they dress-up like some character **that they wish to be more like** (a superhero or princess). Read our memory verse, **Romans 13:14**. Do you admire Jesus and wish to be more like Him?
- 2) **Read Colossians 3:1-2**. Just like when kids play dress-up they “set their minds” on the one they are pretending to be, here we are to “set our minds” on Jesus Christ, the One that we look up to. What are some practical ways that we can do this?
- 3) **Read Colossians 3:5**. This lists several behaviors that God hates. In class we talked about covetousness. **Read Exodus 20:17**. This is the 10th commandment. What are some reasons why you think God is against covetousness?
- 4) **Read Colossians 3:6-7**. This humbly reminds us that God will punish all sin and that Jesus took our punishment through faith. Why is it important to remember this aspect of God’s character?
- 5) **Colossians 3:8-9** continues with a list of behaviors that we are to PUT OFF. We must take care not to approach these merely as a list of DON’Ts. Our motivation must be love (see Q #1 again). Read **Titus 3:3-5**. How does this transform our motivation to obey and PUT OFF from one of “I should” to one of “I want”?
- 6) In class we talked about how players are traded from one team to another to illustrate how through faith in what Jesus has done for us on the cross, God has “traded” for us so that we are now on His team. We are to “PUT ON” our new team jersey and proudly wear it every day. What are some ways that you can “PUT ON” this new jersey and show those around you that you belong to Jesus?