

Use Week of:

Unit 30 • Session 3

New Life in Jesus

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Colossians 2–3

STORY POINT:

Jesus gives new life to people who trust in Him.

KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why does the church exist? The church exists to glorify God by worshiping Him, showing His love, and telling others about Jesus.



INTRODUCE THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 190



TEACH THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 192



APPLY THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 198



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LEADER Bible Study

Paul wrote his letter to the Colossians while he was imprisoned in Rome. At this point, Paul had not yet visited the church at Colossae. The church was established by Epaphras, who reported to Paul that the church was facing troubles with false teachers. Paul wanted to put an end to the false teaching and remind the believers of who Jesus really is. Key to this letter is Paul's teaching about how the gospel affects how we live.

As you teach kids from Colossians 2–3, focus on some of the main points Paul makes. First, God changes us when we trust in Jesus. The Bible describes us apart from Jesus as “enemies of God” (Rom. 5:10) and “dead” in our sins (Eph. 2:1). Jesus rescued us from sin and death by dying on the cross and rising again. Jesus gives new life to people who trust in Him.

Second, following Jesus means living for Him. Jesus is our reason for living, and He gives us power to live in a way that honors Him. Jesus adopts us into His family and makes us new! We respond to the good news of the gospel by submitting to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Finally, Jesus calls us to turn away from our sinful ways and live in a way that honors Him. Paul contrasts an earthly way of thinking with a godly way of thinking. The old, sinful way of living (the “old self”) is characterized by anger, wrath, hatred, lies, and filthy language. Paul wrote that living for Jesus means putting away the evil, selfish ways of the world and living like Jesus by loving God and loving others.

In Jesus, we have power to live in a new, godly way. This way (the “new self”) is marked by compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and love. Paul says believers should “put on” these things. As we grow in this new way of living, God is making us more like His Son.

The BIBLE Story

New Life in Jesus

Colossians 2–3

Paul became a Christian a few years after Jesus died and rose again. He joined the early church **and traveled around, sharing the gospel with others.** Paul often wrote letters to churches when he was away from them. **In his letter to the church at Colossae** (koh LAHS sih), Paul explained how people should live as followers of Jesus.

“As you received Jesus Christ as Lord, continue to live in Him,” Paul wrote. “Build your life on Him. Be strong in your faith and always be thankful.”

Paul told the believers to **be careful about who they listened to.** Sometimes the words of the world sound good and right, but they are not based on God’s truth. Jesus died to set us free from the ways of the world.

Paul wrote, **“Think about godly things, not earthly things. When you trusted in Jesus, you died with Him. Now you live in Him, so turn away from the ways of the world.** Put away anger, wrath, hatred, lies, and filthy language from your mouth. Do not lie to one

another. You used to live this way, but Jesus has given you a new life.” Paul said that **God is making us more like Jesus.** In this new life, **no one is more important than anyone else; we all belong to Jesus.**



Paul wrote, “You are God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved. **Put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with one another and forgive one another** because the Lord has forgiven you. Above all, put on love. Let the peace of Jesus rule your hearts, and be thankful.”

Paul encouraged believers to remember Jesus’ teachings and obey them, teaching and encouraging one another. “Sing to God with thankfulness in your hearts,” Paul wrote. “**Children, obey your parents because this pleases God. And whatever you do, do everything in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God** the Father through Him.”

Christ Connection: God changes us when we trust in Jesus. He adopts us into His family and makes us new! Jesus calls us to turn away from our sinful ways and live in a way that honors Him.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use opposites:** Bring in a series of items that are opposites, such as a hot drink and an cold drink, a white cloth and a black cloth, and so forth. Discuss how the new life in Jesus is opposite the old life in sin.

INTRODUCE the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why does the church exist? The church exists to glorify God by worshiping Him, showing His love, and telling others about Jesus.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to talk about their favorite outfit, article of clothing, or costume they've ever worn.

SAY • Sometimes your favorite clothes might be something super comfy. Or maybe you love a special sports jersey with the number worn by your favorite player. Maybe you like a certain costume that helps you pretend you are a fictional character that you like. Today we will learn about something the Bible tells us to “put away” and something else we should “put on” like clothing. But it's not actual clothes!

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Put Away or Put On?” activity page. Kids will sort the words from the bank into the correct side of the T-chart.

SAY • The Bible tells us how to live. Some traits we should work to display, and other traits we should avoid. The Holy Spirit produces good traits in our lives.

- “Put Away or Put On?” activity page,
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Robe relay

Form two teams of kids. Instruct them to line up on one side of the room and provide each team with a bathrobe. Each kid will take turns putting on his team's robe, walking to the end of the room and back, removing the robe, and handing it to the next player to do the same. The first team to send each player through the race wins.

SAY • You had to put that robe on and off, on and off.

Today we will learn about character traits and behavior patterns that Paul told believers to put away, and new ones to put on. Paul talked about these traits almost like clothing. How do you think we can “take off” our sinful behavior? We'll learn more about it soon.

**LOW
PREP**

· bathrobes, 2

OPTION 2: Tennis ball crash

Form two teams of kids. Provide each team with a tennis ball. In the center of the room, stack six plastic cups in a pyramid shape. Challenge the team's to take turns rolling their tennis balls to hit the stack. Each time the tower is knocked over, reset it and continue playing. Ensure each kid gets a chance to roll the ball.

SAY • Those were some great *collisions*. A collision is like a crash, when two objects run into each other while moving. That's different from a Colossian, who is a person from the ancient city of Colossae. (koh LAHS sih) Paul wrote a letter to the Colossians, believers in Colossae. That letter became the book of Colossians, which we will study today.

· tennis balls, 2

· plastic cups, 6

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



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Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire

[Leader enters wearing khaki shorts and a polo shirt, with a whistle hanging from a lanyard around her neck.]

LEADER • Hey there kids! It's good to see you all again.

Soccer try-outs have been going really well. The training has been pretty intense, but it has been worth it. I've seen a lot of growth in the recruits, and by the time I have the final roster, I'm sure all the players will be ready for anything.

I will say that the one major downside to all the training is having gear wear out. Thankfully, there's a generous local business that has offered to buy us new uniforms in exchange for putting an ad for his shop in the soccer league newsletter. So now, we all get to put away our old gear that's falling apart and put on new gear that is ready to help us win games!

You know, this actually makes me think of our Bible story this session. Did you know that

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

Christians also have certain traits that are old and need to be replaced? Paul wrote about it in one of his letters to a church in Colossae. I'll tell you about it.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • As we've been learning about the early church, it has been important to discuss a special big picture question and answer. ***Why does the church exist? The church exists to glorify God by worshiping Him, showing His love, and telling others about Jesus.*** Jesus saves us, but not so we can sit around and be happy we are saved. We should feel extreme joy because of salvation, but that joy will naturally push us to glorify God by serving Him and spreading the message of the gospel. As the church grows, more people glorify God, and that's what we were created to do all along!

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review. · Giant Timeline

LEADER • Two weeks ago, we learned that **the Holy Spirit led Philip to tell the Ethiopian man about Jesus.** Last week, we heard the amazing story of Paul's conversion. **Jesus saved Paul and chose him to spread the gospel.** God used Paul to start many churches and to instruct churches in how to fulfill their purpose to worship God, show His love, and tell others about him. This week, we are going to learn a bit about one of the churches Paul planted, as well as the letter he wrote to help them love and obey God more fully.

- Bibles
- “New Life in Jesus” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Colossians 2–3. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “New Life in Jesus.”

LEADER • The messages of the world can often sound pretty good to us. “You get what you deserve;” “do what makes you happy;” “you have to look out for yourself;” “follow your heart” ...

But those messages are not what Jesus wants for us. What we deserve is death because of our sin. What makes us happy is very often bad for us. If we only look out for ourselves, we live selfishly. And the Bible teaches that our hearts are tricky and will lead us to chase after sin.

Paul’s letter to the Colossians helped them see that they needed to radically change their lives to match God’s plans for them. We can’t say we have faith and then go on living selfishly. That’s not how it works! When we repent and believe the gospel, the Holy Spirit lives in us and transforms us to look more like Jesus. That means loving even our enemies, caring for the needs of other people, giving generously, and following God instead of our sinful hearts.

Christ connection

LEADER • Turning from sin isn’t always easy, but it is always worth it. Every sin that seems fun or easy will end up hurting us and making our lives harder, eventually. God changes us when we trust in Jesus. He adopts us into His family and makes us new! Jesus calls us to turn away from our sinful ways and live in a way that honors Him.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 30, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why believers still sin sometimes. Guide them to discuss how they feel about God’s promise to help us overcome temptation.

• “Unit 30, Session 3”
Questions from Kids
video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

Play the “Baptisms Around the World” video. You may choose to allow any kids in your group who have been baptized to describe their experiences.

• “Baptisms Around
the World” missions
video

LEADER • Missionaries get to see how Jesus gives new life to people who were dead in sin. It’s great to see how people obey Jesus’ command to follow Him through baptism, which is a way to tell other people that they have new life in Jesus.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Colossians 1:18. Then sing the key passage song.

• Key Passage Poster
• “First Place in
Everything
(Colossians 1:18)”
song

LEADER • Our key passage comes from the very letter we are studying today. Paul wanted believers to treasure Jesus more than anything. When we make Jesus the most important part of our lives, the Holy Spirit changes us to be more like Him. That makes putting away sin and putting on holiness easier and easier each day.

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • When we live for Jesus, the mission to make disciples becomes an important part of our lives. Let’s worship Him for helping us live on mission. Sing together “This Is Where the Mission Begins.”

• “This Is Where the
Mission Begins” song

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Father, our hearts are broken by sin, and it's only Your power that can fix us. Help us to live for Your glory. Give us boldness to pursue You no matter what. Help us put away old sins and put on holiness that honors Jesus before everything else in our lives. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why does the church exist? The church exists to glorify God by worshiping Him, showing His love, and telling others about Jesus.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- sticky notes
- pen

Write each word or phrase of the key passage on a separate sticky note. Place a sticky note on each kid's back. Challenge the kids to work together to stand in the correct order without reading the words or phrases on their individual backs. Invite a volunteer to say the key passage from memory. Thank each kid for her efforts and encourage all the kids to continue working to memorize the passage.

SAY • Paul wrote these words in his letter to the believers living in Colossae. Paul wanted them to know that Jesus is the leader and most important part of the church. We all must love and obey Him as part of the church. *Why does the church exist? The church exists to glorify God by worshiping Him, showing His love, and telling others about Jesus.*

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find Colossians 2–3. Remind kids that Colossian is part of the Paul's Letters division of the New Testament. Use the New Testament Mediterranean Map to point out where Colossae was located. (E7)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did Paul tell believers to continue to do? (*walk in Christ, Col.2:6*)
2. What should believers think about? (*heavenly things, Col. 3:1-2*)
3. What did Paul tell children to do? (*obey their parents; Col. 3:20*)
4. How does God make us new? *Discuss the immediate change that takes place in our standing before God when we believe the gospel. Remind kids that there is also a gradual change in our lives as the Holy Spirit makes us more and more like Jesus over time. Teach the kids the words justification and sanctification to describe these changes, the immediate and the gradual, respectively.*
5. Why does God make us new? *Talk kids through God's desire to show us love and mercy. Remind them that we were created to glorify God by enjoying His goodness. Explain that sin prevents us from doing what we were made to do. God makes us new so that we can glorify Him as we were supposed to all along. That is how we experience the most joy in life.*
6. Why is love so important for believers? *Guide kids to think through the ways all of God's commands center on loving Him and loving people. Love for God motivates us to love people. Remind them that when we love others, we want what is best for them; we will want them to live with God as we do.*

SAY • Jesus gives new life to people who trust in Him.

The life Jesus gives is the only way to experience true joy and peace. The Holy Spirit helps us to live in a way that honors God.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

LOW PREP

- “Exploring Baptism” printable
- scissors
- tape

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

- masking tape
- paper scraps
- pens or markers

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Exploring baptism

Print and cut apart the “Exploring Baptism” printable. Hang the photos around the room, and distribute the captions among smaller groups of kids. Challenge the kids to work together to match the descriptions to the pictures.

SAY • Christians around the world are baptized in many different ways. Many believers do not have access to indoor plumbing or a special baptismal in a church. But they still obey Jesus’ command to baptize new believers. When they believe in Jesus, they have new life with Him. Baptism cannot give you new life, but it is a way Christians show the world the new life Jesus gave them when they believed the gospel and had faith in Him.

OPTION 2: Focus pocus

Use masking tape to make a target shape on the floor. Provide each kid with a scrap of paper. Kids will write their name on the paper, then wad it up and use it as a ball.

In the first round of the game, ask each kid to toss their ball onto the target while facing away from the target. Use a small bit of tape to record where each kid’s paper wad landed. In the next round, allow the kids to aim by looking at the target while they toss their wads. Note which kids were able to get closer to the center of the target in the second round.

SAY • If you don’t focus on the target, it is nearly impossible to hit the target. That seems simple enough, right? In our lives, we often forget to focus on Jesus, and then wonder why it is difficult to live our lives for His

glory. Paul reminded believers that they needed to focus on Jesus, setting their minds on things above—things that have to do with God and His commands. We must do the same.

We set our minds on things above when we study our Bibles, pray, and learn about God with the church community. When we have faith in Jesus, obeying Him becomes easier the more we focus on Him.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.