

Focus

J.C. Thompson June 12, 2022

Outline

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need."

Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

A. Introduction

B. In order to _____, you must...

1. Keep your eyes _____ the (Colossians 3:1-2. C/R: Matthew 6:33) 2. Keep your eyes _____ the ____ (Psalm 119:37. C/R: Colossians 3:5-9)

Answers: B. focus **1.** on, prize **2.** off, pointless

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Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit <u>brookwoodchurch.org/adults</u>.

Conversation Starter

What's something you wore growing up that you would never wear now?

Begin your study with prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Then ask God for insight and direction as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

Bible Study and Group Discussion

Read Colossians 3:1-11.

- 1. What does it mean to be *raised to new life with Christ* (vs. 1)? How have you experienced this new life?
- 2. Even after being raised to new life, followers of Christ continue to battle with sin (reflect on ways this shows up in vs. 5-9). In what ways do you still long for God to work in your life? What impact has this internal battle had on your relationship with God?
- 3. What are practical ways to *set your sights on the realities of heaven* (vs. 1-2)? Why is this important?
- 4. Jesus *sits in the place of honor at God's right hand* (vs. 1). Why is this important for practical Christian living?
- 5. What does it mean that *your real life is hidden with Christ in God* (vs. 3)? How can this idea help you live with a greater sense of wholeness? For further insight, read Romans 6:5-14.
- 6. How does the promise of sharing in God's glory (vs. 4) bring you hope?

- 7. What practices would help you have a more constant awareness of God?
- 8. How does this passage challenge you?
- 9. What specific parts of this passage bring you encouragement?
- 10. Name one way you can apply the truths of this passage to your life.

Spiritual Practice

A spiritual practice is something we can do to help us live in and enjoy God's grace. Our hope is that these would become a regular part of your life, so that walking and talking with God is the most natural thing you do.

In bringing about change, God works from the inside out by the power of His Spirit. This week, set aside a substantial amount of time (say, 30 minutes) for prayer. Ask God to work in your life in a new and powerful way. Focus your attention on Him. Make no demands. Let go of what you think it's supposed to look like. Open your heart to God, and ask Him to continue changing the way you think and live.

Memory Verse

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need." Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

Daily Reading

Day 1: John 3:3	Day 4: Psalm 119:37
Day 2: Romans 6:5-11	Day 5: Deuteronomy 4:29
Day 3: Jeremiah 29:12	

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, June 19, we'll spend time reflecting on the *Fatherhood* of God. To prepare, read **1 Thessalonians 2:11-12**.

