

Acts-Revelation

Colossians

Colossians 1-4

Younger Verse

Work for the Lord. Colossians 3:23

Older Verse

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. Colossians 3:23

Welcome Time

Provide paper and pencil or crayon and have your children “write” a letter to someone. Ask them who they wrote to and what they said. Then ask them why - which should have something to do with the importance of the message. Share that this is why Paul was writing to the church in Colossae—he had something important to share with them.

Bible Story

*The following is a summary of the Bible story to help you with your preparation. Please do **NOT** read to the children. Instead, study your Bible, using this summary as a guide, and make a note page to help you remember your plans for the lesson or questions you want to ask.*

The book of Colossians is another one of Paul’s letters. He wrote it to the church in Colossae. (Teachers: you might want to find Colossae on a map of Bible Lands and show your children. Colossae was in what is now Southwestern Turkey.) Paul didn’t begin this church like he did many others; it was started by someone Paul had told about Jesus. This man’s name was Epaphras. When Paul heard that the church was having problems he wrote a letter from Rome where he was imprisoned.

The Colossians had teachers who weren’t telling them the truth. These teachers were adding to what the Bible says and making up rules saying that along with believing in Jesus you had to do lots of extra things to get to heaven. Paul wanted them to know that they couldn’t keep enough rules or do enough things to get to heaven. Only Jesus can save us and give us a new life. How can we know what the truth is? Jesus told us in the book of John that “God’s Word is truth.” What is God’s Word? That’s right, it’s the Bible. We can know the truth from a lie if we know what the Bible says. And the Bible is enough—it doesn’t need anything added to it.

In the rest of his letter, Paul encouraged the believers in Colossae to remember what they had learned from Epaphrus, the things he had shown them in the Bible and what he had told them about Jesus. Paul said, “Don’t let anyone deceive you with false arguments, no matter how good they seem to be.” (2:4) And he told them how to do this—“Keep your roots deep in [Jesus], build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught. And be filled with thanksgiving.” (2:7)

Lesson Goals

Convey the importance of discovering God’s secret in Jesus and standing firm in the truth that He is enough for salvation.

Convey the importance of knowing scripture and not being deceived.

Paul reminded the church that they were supposed to be different from the people around them! He told them to get rid of bad things like lying and anger, bad language and hateful feelings. He also told them to “clothe themselves” with kindness and gentleness and love. He was encouraging them to choose good over bad, but they could only do it if they had chosen to live for Jesus. We can’t do things like that without His help. Paul told the Colossians that God loved them. Paul even told families how to treat each other and said that it is a Christian’s duty to obey his/her parents, because it makes God happy.

Paul told the church to keep praying and to be careful how they acted around people who didn’t believe in God yet. He said their speech should always be pleasant and nice and that they should be ready to give an answer to people who have questions about God. He told them that *whatever* they did, they should do it with all their heart. We should do the same.

We can learn a lot from Paul’s letter to the Colossians. God loves us and sent His Son to be the only way we can have a friendship with Him. And God loves us enough to tell us the truth and never to lie—in fact, He can’t tell a lie because He is truth. So when we read the Bible, God’s Word, we can believe everything it says and we can obey, because it makes God happy when we obey Him. And the biggest way we can do that is to come to Him believing that He loved us enough to send His one and only son to die for us because, like we said earlier, we can’t do enough good stuff to get close to God. And God promises that whoever believes in His son will live with Him forever in heaven one day.

**Memory Verse
Activities**

Practice the memory verse as a group where you say a word at a time from the verse and have your students repeat. When they feel comfortable one word at a time, begin to put two, then three, then phrases together until they can say the verse on their own.

Prayer Time

Remind your children that Paul encouraged us to pray and give thanks to God (4:2-4). Take the opportunity to do that with them, praying for their families and strength for them to be obedient to their parents. Also pray for courage for them to share Jesus with others any chance they can.

Clean Up/Snack time

For snack today, you can share a variety of things to reinforce the lesson.

Sour Skittles (or another candy like them)—they look like small, sweet candy but are very sour (you could then take the opportunity to remind them of the need to examine things well, like the Colossians needed to examine their false teachers.)

Gingerbread Men or E.L. Fudge—as they eat, remind them of the need to clothe themselves with love, gentleness, humility . . .

Planning for September 19th
1 Thessalonians
Please God

Preschool Lesson for Colossians

Teacher: Have the following prepared before you share the lesson with your preschoolers. Prepare the following letter for your preschoolers. Seal it in an envelope to open during the time when you share the lesson. This will reinforce the fact that Paul sent a letter to the church in Colossae. (Take advantage of the “Welcome Time” on page 1. This will work for preschoolers as well.)

From Paul and Timothy
To God’s children at (*your church’s name*)

Every time I talk to God I tell him “thank you” because of you. I ask God to help you know how to do the right thing as you keep reading your Bible. Your Bible Study Leader Ms./Mr. (*your name here*) has told you about God. Remember, God created everything! And he sent his son to make a way for us to go to heaven because when we choose not to follow him we are his enemies.

In fact, I’m writing to you because I want you to know a secret, God’s secret! His secret—is Jesus! Jesus is the key to all of God’s treasures like knowledge and knowing how to do the right thing at the right time. Don’t let anyone fool you by saying Jesus isn’t enough. He is enough and our thoughts should be about him and the things that are in heaven. The things we have here on earth, like toys and money and all sorts of things, aren’t really important when compared to God!

God can help you do some hard things like getting rid of anger and hateful feelings and bad talk just like you would take off dirty clothes when you are ready for a bath. And when you are clean because of what Jesus can do in your life, put on (like clean clothes) kindness and patience and love. And you must obey your parents, because you know what?! It makes God happy! And whatever you do, work hard like you are doing it for God, not just for men.

Tell (*name of student*) I said “hello.” And tell (*name of another student*) “hello,” too. And tell (*name of a fellow Bible Study that is close*) I said “hello.” Share this letter with them and they will do the same.

I wrote this myself.
Don’t forget me!

Activities for Colossians

- Use paper dolls to illustrate Colossians 3:5-17. Have on hand paper dolls and various pieces of paper doll clothing. If possible make several pieces of the clothing dirty or label each piece according to the passage. For example, one piece of “dirty” clothing could be labeled “anger” while a piece of clean clothing could be labeled “kindness.” Share with your kids that they are to get rid of or remove, anger, hateful feelings, obscene talk, etc. and that they are to be clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, etc.
 - Collect several medium-sized empty boxes. If you have access to cardboard building blocks, those will also work. Ask for volunteers from your class—choose one student. Ask them to carry a box. Ask them if it is difficult to carry one box. Then ask them to carry several boxes in their arms. Ask them if it is difficult this time (it should be for the teaching activity). Use this time to reinforce and explain that we are called to follow Christ and Him only. We don’t need the added weight of other beliefs or rules. Remind your students that Matthew 11:30 says His burden (or load) is light!
 - Take your cues from the preschool lesson and write a letter to your church from “Paul.” Seal it in an envelope to be read to them before, after or as the lesson is taught.
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