



WHERE IS YOUR MIND?

Disciples & Early Church • U8#3 1st-3rd Gr. • Feb.23, 2025

Concept

Christians have been given a new identity in Christ.

Goal

Students will learn that the eternal life we have because of Christ changes how we think about things here on earth.

Passage

Colossians 3:1-3; Matthew 6:33

Key Verse: "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth." Colossians 3:2 (NASB)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Adam Raccoon and the Circus Master, Glen Keane</i> <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Pencils</i><i>"Scrambled Mind" handout, 1/student</i>	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Printed camouflage template, 1 sheet/child</i><i>String or yarn, 30"/child</i><i>Toilet paper tubes, 2/child</i><i>Hole punches, 3/class</i><i>Clear tape, 1 roll/class</i>ScissorsCrayons/Markers

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information (for the teacher)

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Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as he thinks within himself, so he is." Indeed, our lifestyle flows from our mindset. How easy it is to burden ourselves with the troubles of this world and focus on self: my needs, my wants and my desires. Let's face it, at our very core we are selfish and very shortsighted. Before we began a relationship with Christ, all we did was think of self and fulfilling our needs. As Christians, it is only as we seek first His kingdom and set our minds on the things above that true fulfillment is realized. God has called us to step outside ourselves and to serve others as we look to Him to meet our needs. Christ, Himself, did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many (Matt. 20:28). The only way He could do that was to keep His eyes on the Father, to look forward, enduring the shame for the joy set before Him (Heb. 12:2).

"The supply of grace remains plentiful. Right now – they need not wait until the day of the Parousia! – they are raised with Christ. They possess within themselves the life of the resurrection. Let the power of Christ's resurrection, therefore, be experienced by them in an ever increasing degree. Let their union with the exalted Christ transform their entire life: mind, heart, and will (Phil. 3:10). Let them seek the things that are above where Christ is. The verb seek implies persevering effort; hence, the rendering, 'Be constantly seeking,'... This seeking, moreover, is more than a seeking to discover. It is a seeking to obtain (cf. Matt. 6:33; 13:45). The emphasis, though, is not on the seeking but on the object sought. ...These things that are above are the spiritual values embedded in the heart of the exalted Mediator in glory, whence, without loss to himself, they are bestowed upon those who humbly ask for them and diligently seek them (Matt. 7:7; I Cor. 12:11; Eph. 1:3; 4:7,8)...

"... Those that seek to obtain these 'things that are above' are not chasing phantoms but are gathering priceless treasures. They are not the kind of people who forget about their duty in the here and now. On the contrary, they are very practical, for the graces that have been enumerated enable them not only to gain victory upon victory in their struggle against fleshly indulgence but also to be truthfully 'the salt of the earth' and 'the light of the world' (Matt. 5:13, 14)."[1]

Additional reading: Romans 12:2; Isaiah 55:8; Hebrews 12:2

[1] William Hendriksen, *Philippians, Colossians and Philemon*, ©1979 by William Hendriksen, Baker Book House, pp. 140-141.

Transition

Instructions: Before class hang the "Tell the Truth" title sign on the white board or bulletin board.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Craft – Binoculars [3]**

- **Instructions:** Give each child 2 toilet paper tubes, sheet of printed camouflage templates and a piece of string. Cut out template pieces. Glue or tape the large rectangle to the toilet paper roll. Glue or tape the small rectangle to the end of the TP roll. Repeat with the second template. Glue or tape the two TP rolls together side by side with black band on same end. Punch holes on either side of the binoculars. String a piece of yarn through so the binoculars can hang around the neck.
- **Discussion suggestion while children work:** These are pretend binoculars. Have you ever looked through real binoculars? What do you see when you look through them? You can see things that are far away, can't you? They are bigger and clearer when you look through the binoculars. The Bible is kind of like binoculars because it helps us see God and Jesus much clearer. Since we can't see them with our eyes, we can read the Bible to see God and Jesus with our minds.

Introduction Lg. Group

Story – Adam Raccoon and the Circus Master

Our key verse is, "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:2). As you listen to this story, see if you can figure out what King Aren is trying to get Adam to set his mind on – the things above or the things on earth? (Read the story.)

I don't know about you, but I spend a lot of time thinking about the things that I can see, taste, touch and smell. It's easy to think about those things and forget about God and the things that are really important.

Lesson Lg. Group

Let's read **Colossians 3:1-3** in the Bible. What does Paul mean in verse 1 when he says, "Since you have been raised up with Christ?" Paul is referring to what happens to people who have made a decision to accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior. In John 14:6 Jesus declared, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." The only way to get to heaven is to have a personal relationship with Jesus. This is true for everyone (see John 14:6, "No one"). The Bible tells us that anyone can have a personal relationship with Christ simply by believing that He is the Son of God who died for their sins and asking Him to forgive them. After Jesus died on the cross and was buried, He was raised back to life and went back to heaven where He lives now. The Bible says that the moment we ask Him to forgive us, we are in a sense raised up with Christ. We are saved from the punishment we deserve for our sin and have the promise that when we die we will also be raised to live with Him forever in heaven.

Lesson Continued

What does Paul say in this passage to those who have been raised up? He says to keep "seeking the things above" and to "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:2). The things above are the things that are eternal, the things that will last forever. Can you think of some things that will last forever? (Some things would be people, God, Jesus, God's Word, Holy Spirit, God's power, God's love, God's character, God's grace and mercy, our new identity.)

It should be evident that, if Paul has to tell these people to set their mind on things above, there must be another option. What would be that other option? (Other option would be "earthly things/temporal things;" see worksheet.) If we don't have a relationship with Christ and aren't looking forward to living forever with God, it makes sense that we would focus on temporal things. If you don't believe that there is life after we die then the most important things would be money, popularity, all our possessions and appearance/beauty.

If you have a relationship with Jesus, then you have eternal life. Doesn't it make sense that if we have new life in Christ we would focus our attention and thoughts on the things that concern our new life? Paul says it's important to spend our time in this life focusing on our relationship with God and the things that are eternally important. For example, how many of you plan to go to high school? The things you are doing in elementary school are preparing you for what you will do in high school. So, instead of watching TV all day at school, you could spend a good deal of the time thinking about and working on math, science, English, etc., so you will be prepared for high school. Of course, if you knew you would NEVER go to high school, the things you do in school now wouldn't matter. In the same way, if we know we have eternal life, then it makes sense that we focus our thoughts and energy in this life preparing for eternity. That is why Paul encourages us to "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:2).

Transition

Let's get into teams to try to use our minds to unscramble things from above and things of the earth.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Game - "Scrambled Mind"

Instructions: Give each member of each team the "Scrambled Mind" handout and a pencil. The first team to unscramble the words or phrases is the winner.

Things that last Forever:

sjues (Jesus)

cross the Jesus and (Jesus and the cross)

God's evol (God's love)

God's charracte (God's character)

Learning Activity#1 Continued

God's thutr (God's truth)
God's pwore (God's power)
God's cegra (God's grace)
God's acepantcce (God's acceptance)
voling leoppe (loving people)

Things that are Temporary:

new having yots (having new toys)
best strops being the at (being the best at sports)
wosh newest knowing TV about (knowing about the newest TV show)
tramsest the being in school (being the smartest in school)
I want drifens do what (friends do what I want or I do what friends want)
srierow, problems (worries, problems)
lesfish my and wants desires (my selfish wants and desires)
me others kinth of what (what others think of me)

Transition

Let's get into small groups, so we can talk about how this works in our lives every day.

Learning Activity#2 Sm. Groups

- As Christians, Paul calls on us to focus on eternal things. Does this mean that it's wrong to think about the temporal things we listed? Does it mean we should not go to school? Get a job? Save money for college? Buy new clothes? None of these temporal things are bad.
- Turn to Matthew 6:28-33. How does this compare to Colossians 3? It's the same principle. God provides everything for us.
- Vs. 33 says to seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness. What does that mean? How do we do that? What does the verse say will happen if we do seek Him first?
- The truth is that we'd rather focus on ourselves and figure out how to get what we need. Do you have trouble believing that God knows what you need? Why do you think that some people are able to or why do you believe that God always knows what we need? What would it take for you to believe that God knows what you need?
- How do we change it from a mind set on "earthly things" to a mind set on the "heavenly things?" (Take time to pray with your Christian friends and share what you have learned about God and the Bible. Think about who God says you are and how He sees you. Think about how you can tell others about God's gift of forgiveness. Think about what God says rather than what others or we think.)
- When we act on what is true, our belief in God and His truth are strengthened. What is a truth you can act on this week?

Missions Prayer: Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving Campaign.

Learning Activity# 2 Continued

Let's pray now, asking God to help us choose to "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:2). Let's thank God that He sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins so that we can have a life of great fulfillment and meaning here as well as life forever with God in heaven.

Optional Activity

Play a favorite game, outside if weather permits.