

Week 1: Live it Out

Overview: Following Jesus isn't just about beliefs – it's about daily life. This week shows students what it looks like to live with a 'mind set on things above' in the everyday pressure and rhythms of school. Students will explore how Christ reshapes their character, how we support one another, and how love becomes the defining mark of God's people.

Key Scripture: Colossians 3:1-14

CONTENT

Key Takeaway: Living for Jesus in your hallways begins with becoming like Jesus in your heart.

Key Points

- Suggestion: use an opening illustration of a parade. Your perspective on the ground level can only take the parade in as it happens to you. But what if you could get a bird's eye view of the parade? You'd be able to see it beginning to end.
 - That's what Paul invites us to do: get out of the trappings of the ground level and rise above it for a moment. Imagine what Christ can see from the "heaven's eye view." This changes what we get involved in, what we obsess over, etc.
- Set your mind on things above (vv.1-4)
 - He's not saying ignore life on earth – he's saying let heaven shape how you live on earth.
 - Your perspective shapes your behavior. What you fix your mind on determines who you become.
 - School is full of competing things trying to capture your attention: comparison, pressure to fit in, achievement, drama, opinions, digital distractions
 - The question is: who gets to shape your mindset today – your school or your Savior?
- Take off the old self (vv.5-9)
 - Identify what gets in the way – anger, impurity, gossip, comparison, pride, selfishness – and choose to put them to death.
 - Because you belong to Jesus, these things don't describe you anymore – let them go.
- Put on the new self (vv.10-14)
 - Jesus clothes us with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love – character traits that stand out in everyday spaces.
 - How can this "new wardrobe" be evidence of Christ living in you at school?

- Compassion for the kid sitting alone, kindness to someone everyone ignores, patience when you're frustrated, humility when you do well on a test, forgiveness when you're wronged
- Your Hallways are your mission field
 - We are on mission to reach every man, woman, and child with repeated opportunities to hear and see the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus placed you in your school on purpose. You get to reach every student with opportunities to hear and see the gospel. There are conversations, friendships, burdens, and opportunities only you will see.
 - People may not read the Bible, but they'll read your life.
- Closing: Living the gospel opens the door for speaking the gospel (leads into week 2)

Gospel Application: You can't "put on" Christlike character through willpower. Jesus lived perfectly and died for our imperfection so that we could become new – fully loved and fully changed. The gospel frees us to live differently because Christ now lives in us. He empowers us to become who we could never become on our own.

Key Question: if someone only watched how you lived at school, what would they learn about Jesus?

APPLICATION

Activity Suggestions

- Hallway map exercise: have students draw or list their daily school spaces and brainstorm one "live it out" action for each location
- During the service, ask small groups to sit together and create an environment where the message is interactive. Pause and let groups discuss during the message.

Community Group Questions

- Where is one space (either in your school or outside school) that you can intentionally live out the Gospel?
- If someone only watched how you lived at school, what would they learn about Jesus?
- Review Colossians 3:5-14. What things in your life do you need to "put on" and what do you need to "take off?"
- What kind of sacrifice is involved in living in the way of the new self? Why is it worth it?