



## 2.27.11 / Colossians 3:12-17

**Materials**

- A few old t-shirts (ideally with stains or paint on them)
- A few nice shirts (button ups, sweaters, etc.)

**Opening Activity**

Have the children put on the old shirts and explain that before we have a relationship with Christ, we are broken, torn, and dirty, much like the shirts they are wearing. But when we accept Jesus as our savior, we have access to a brand new “wardrobe.” God sees the beauty and perfection of Jesus because of the trade He offered us on the cross. Because of that, we want to look more and more like Jesus. Now have the children put on the nice shirts overtop the old shirts. As they do, you can give examples of the “clothes” that Christ gives us, such as love, kindness, humility and patience. Explain that in this week’s lesson, we’re going to learn about God’s “wardrobe” and that when we wear His wardrobe instead of our own, we will interact with our friends and family in a completely different way.

**Read Colossians 3:12-17**

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

**Discussion**

We know from the Bible that when we believe in Jesus, and that He died and rose again to overcome our sins, we will live forever with Him in heaven. But what does this mean for us while we’re here on Earth? When we believe in Jesus, He gives us His Holy Spirit, and He lives inside of us! His Spirit gives us the power to strive to become more and more like Jesus. As we do this, we become more and more thankful for all that Christ has done for us, and we start to extend to those around us the same love and forgiveness that Jesus has given us!

Paul calls the church a “body.” He says that “the peace of Christ” should “rule in your hearts.” Where is the heart located in our physical body? In the center! This means that Christ should always be in the center of everything that we do. It means with every conversation we have with someone, every game we play, or place we go, we should act like He would in all of those situations and be thankful for how good God has been to us.

**Application Questions / Prayer**

1. If you were pretending that you and your best friend were twins, what kind of things would you do to seem more similar? *You’d act the same, dress in the same clothes, say the same things, etc. If we believe in Jesus, we are becoming more and more like Him!* What are some of the characteristics of Christ that we should strive to have in our own lives to make us seem more like His twin? *Patience with one another. Unconditional forgiveness. Love. A compassionate heart. Humility. (Any example from the passage works!)* Can we do this on our own, or does Jesus have to do this for us? *We can do nothing without Him. He is the one who makes these changes possible.*

2. Paul tells us that “if one has a complaint against another” we should forgive each other. He says, “as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” Sometimes it can be really hard to forgive someone if they’ve done something really mean to us



or someone we love, but why should we forgive even those people? *Jesus died on the cross to overcome EVERYONE'S sin. Even the person who has hurt you. If Jesus can forgive them, then we can forgive them. When it seems hard, ask for God's help. We are called to love each other, and it's impossible to love someone fully if you cannot forgive them. The more you understand your own need for Jesus' forgiveness, the more you are able to offer forgiveness to others.*

3. Of all of God's "clothes" we are to put on, Paul says, ". . . above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." Why do you think love is the most important garment? *Without God, we can't love anybody or anything, but when we believe in Jesus, He gives us a new life and His power to love others as He loves them. When we share the love of God with others, we are reflecting God to them. If we truly love someone as God loves them, we can forgive them because Jesus helps us do this. If we truly love someone as God loves them, we can be patient with them just like God is patient with us. But we can only truly love and forgive others if we believe in Jesus and He gives us His Holy Spirit. God is love, and if we don't put on the love of God as our first piece of clothing, the rest of the clothes we need won't fit!*

### Reflection

In prayer (individually or as a group-whichever is more comfortable), thank God for His forgiveness. Pray that we would always remember what a HUGE gift we've been given and that we would be thankful for this gift. Ask for His help to forgive anyone that we have complaints against. Finally, pray that we would learn to put on God's wardrobe: love, kindness, humility, meekness, and compassion, and leave our old clothes behind us. And if anyone in the group has just started believing in Jesus or wants to know more about what that means, please let your parents know!