**1. Motivate**

What has ever caused you to say, “Looks can be deceiving”?

* saw someone without makeup
* saw a tv or film person in real life – looked taller/shorter/older/younger
* what was advertised and what you got was not the same
* highly advertised or described movie was a flop
* movie was different than the book
* politician said one thing and did the opposite

**2. Transition**

While people are not always as they appear, our worship should be genuine.

* There should be evidence that validates our praise.
* Everything we do in life is to be an act of worship.

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://tinyurl.com/mr34247h>. If you don’t have wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video file from <https://tinyurl.com/8xz448zj>

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 A Matter of the Mind

Listen for advice about thinking.

Colossians 3:1-5 (NIV) Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

What are these “things above” that we should set our minds on?

* knowing God’s Truth
* reading and heeding God’s words to us
* attributes of God which the Holy Spirit reproduces in our lives
* knowing what God wants us to be
* knowing the power and authority of God – learning to depend on that power
* the assurance of God’s love for us

Aside from the “clutter of the mind” we mentioned earlier, what are earthly things which try to crowd out these “things above”?

* entertainment, pleasure, popularity
* daily duties of our employment
* family problems
* appearance, beauty, looking good
* materialism
* drive for power and influence

What are some practical ways we can turn off the noise of the world to deliberately focus on Christ?

* limit secular input – Facebook, TikTok, Twitter, 24 hour a day news
* daily time in God’s Word
* well-chosen reading material
* limit time on hobbies, secular pastimes

Paul said in verse 3 “you died,” your “old self” is dead. That is true, but its influence is still often felt.

* It is part of our physical, emotional make up
* As long as we are still physically alive, these desires still exist
* *Experientially*, we still live with a sinful nature
* *Positionally*, we stand before God as “new creations” – forgiven, justified, righteous
* God promises freedom from both the penalty *and the power* of sin in our lives
* Only when we get to heaven will we be free from the *presence* of sin

What evidence would cause people to say someone is more focused on things above and not on what’s here on earth?

* how you spend your time – ministry, worship, investing in family
* how you spend your money – spending under control, faithful in tithing and giving beyond
* unsolicited words and actions of kindness to others
* joy and peace predominate one’s life … not anger or grumpiness

How did God change your perspective, your focus after you became a Christian?

* gave up pursuits and interests from BC (Before Christ)
* changed friends
* got rid of some bad habits
* was kinder to spouse, to kids
* changed vocabulary
* attitude towards, treatment of the opposite sex

How exactly do we set our heart and mind on things above? What are these “things above” that we should set our minds on?

* daily reading and contemplation of God’s Word
* applying God’s Truth to your life
* attributes of God which the Holy Spirit reproduces in our lives
* knowing what God wants us to be
* knowing the power and authority of God – learning to depend on that power
* the assurance of God’s love for us
* worship, thanksgiving, declaring your faith in God daily
* set secular pursuits aside so you can spend time with God each day

3.2 Being Like Christ

Listen for a change of clothing.

Colossians 3:12-15 (NIV) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Paul speaks of spiritual attributes like clothing … with what spiritual attributes are we to clothe ourselves?

* compassion
* kindness
* humility note the similarities, the overlap with the Fruit of the Spirit
* gentleness
* patience
* love

What instructions does he give about forgiveness?

* bear with each other
* forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another
* forgive the same way God has forgiven you

When Paul says “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts” he uses a term similar to the rule of an umpire or referee in a sports competition. What kinds of rulings does an umpire or referee make?

Basically the team of referees have absolute authority … cannot be overturned.

* strike or ball, in bounds or out of bounds
* safe or out, foul or no foul
* legal or illegal action

How would this apply to the “peace of Christ” making the calls, making the “rulings” in a lifestyle of worship?

* we have good and bad days, good and bad situations in our lives
* We can remember that God is in charge, no matter what
* We can praise and worship God for the Fruit of the Spirit, peace, that rules in our lives, despite whatever is going on
* we might be suffering or we might be celebrating, but God gives peace, no matter what

Paul says, “and be thankful”… consider what this has to do with worship?

* giving thanks is definitely part of worship – and not just at Thanksgiving
* we declare that God is worthy by thanking Him for all He has done for us
* we declare our awe of how He has forgiven us, provided for us, blessed us – despite of what we are like, our failures

3.3 Gratitude and Honor

Listen for music.

Colossians 3:16-17 (NIV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

What does it mean to have the “word of Christ dwell in you richly”?

* you read and carefully consider what Christ said and did
* you read and study what the whole Bible says … the Old Testament repeatedly points to the coming Savior
* you apply God’s Truth to your life, obey it
* you have a desire to read and fill your heart and mind with God’s Truth
* you are hungry for it, just like you hunger daily for your meals

What actions demonstrate that believers treasure the word of Christ?

* we sing and enjoy songs about what God tells us
* we live lives of gratitude … not anger, not dissatisfaction, not passivity about God’s blessings
* our actions our daily tasks are done in the Name of Jesus … with His authority and His blessing

How has music helped shape your personal knowledge and worship of God?

* children’s choruses still echo in our minds
* when we listen to Christian music, those are the lyrics that we fill our minds with
* in contrast to either the secular passion, anger, or melancholy in the world’s music
* there is powerful theology in traditional hymns (which we are missing out on IMHO)
* there are worshipful thoughts in contemporary Christian music

How would acting “in the Name of Jesus” help us develop a lifestyle of worship anytime, anywhere?

* when we help someone in the Name of Jesus, you are glorifying Him
* when you pause to pray before a school exam or a sport competition, you demonstrate that He is worthy of your trust
* when you assemble an Operation Christmas Child shoebox in the Name of Jesus you are trusting Him to use it to His glory in the life of that receiving child
* when you bow to give thanks in Jesus’ Name for your meal in a restaurant, you are worshiping Jesus publicly,

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

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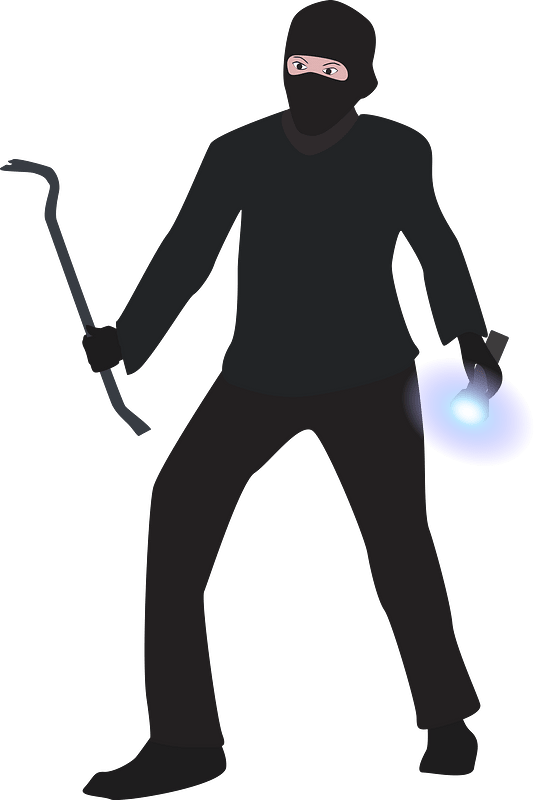
The Starting Place.

* Looking back over your life as a believer, make a list of some things you have “put off” as you matured in your faith.
* Evaluate further: What hurtful habits still hinder the flow of worship in your life?
* Decide today to eliminate those habits with God’s help.

The Growing Place.

* Using Colossians 3:12-14 as a guide, make a list identifying those attributes of the Christ-life within you that challenge you the most.
* Commit those verses to memory.

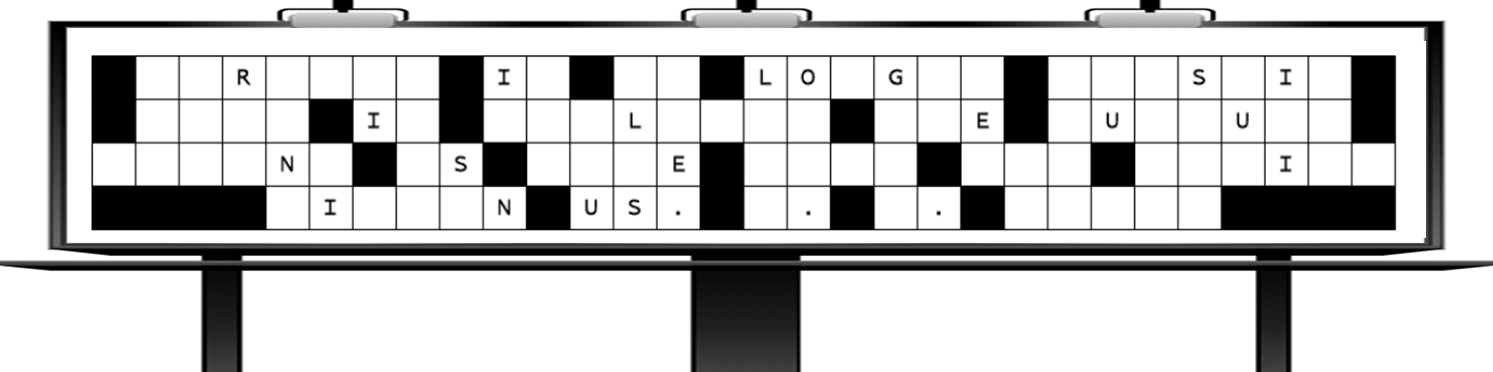
The Sowing Place.

* Reflect on your involvement in corporate worship.
* Invite someone from your neighborhood or community to attend your church’s worship service with you.
* Afterward, share some of the ways worship has made an impact in your life.

Fallen Phrases

A cartoon of a policeman holding a sword

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We have a hoodlum wrecking the church billboard. Most of the letters have been pried off and fallen straight down. The pastor has asked that folks help out and get the sign put back together. Start with columns with just one letter fallen. Then go for two and three letter words and try to find letters that would make reasonable words. The sign has something to do with worship, so let the Worship Pastor know what you end up with. Technical help and more Fun Family Activities are found at <https://tinyurl.com/8xz448zj>