

Lesson Aim: To grow in our ability to make decisions that help us to live out who we are in Christ on a daily basis.



connecting

Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on summer break**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this **simplified format**, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the summer break.

Lesson Aim: To grow in our ability to make decisions that help us to live out who we are in Christ on a daily basis.

Prayer: Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion or devotional time.



growing

1. **READ Colossians 3:1-4.** How are we to grow in our spiritual life? How does this contrast with the things that don't help us grow (2:16-23)?
2. **READ Colossians 3:5-17.** Compare and contrast the "clothes" of the earthly nature with those of God's chosen people.
3. What are some challenges we have in taking off the old clothes and putting on the new clothes? What are some ways it is possible to do this?



sewing

4. What aspect of your old nature feels like a comfortable old T-shirt to you right now? Why is it difficult to shed or remove?
5. With what piece of Christ's clothing (character) would you like to replace it with?



reaching

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.

Colossians 3:1-17 – A Matter of Life and Death 6.24.12

Pursue a life based on this truth: *I am here because of Christ and for Christ.* (verses 1-4)

Reject choices that have nothing to do with God and mess up our lives. (verses 5-9)

- Sexual impurities that pervert what God created to be beautiful.
- Greedy idolatry that insists we always get what we want whenever we want it (and it always wants more).
- Anger issues that cause us to lose control and make others pay for it.
- Using our mouths to make a mess and harm others.

Make choices that develop the character of Jesus in us and reveal Him to the world around us. (verses 10-17)

- We choose to love because we are loved by God.
- Focus on doing good, not just feeling good.
- God will give us the same power to forgive others that He uses when He forgives us.
- Every day we make decisions to draw near to God or keep our distance.

Putting off the Old Self and Putting on the New Self

- Focus on changing in one area at a time.
- Focus on “putting off the old self and putting on the new self” one day at a time.
- Remember that change happens through God’s power, not willpower.
- Focus on who you want to become, not who you don’t want to become.
- Focus on people who help you, not hinder you.
- Focus on your progress, not perfection.