



LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Helps Us Love and Forgive Others

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3

WORD OF WONDER: 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NirV)

Forgiveness. Now there's a word that's easier said than done. When someone does something that hurts or offends us, we have a decision to make: to forgive or not to forgive. Why is that so hard?

The funny thing is that as we read through the Gospels, we see Jesus setting the example of love and forgiveness. Then in Colossians 3:1–2, Paul reminds us to set our hearts and minds on things that are in heaven rather than be distracted by worldly things. Yet sometimes, the things of the world can feel so big and sound so loud. Maybe it's the temptation to hold onto resentment or to pay back gossip with more gossip. But God has something better in mind.

It's important to remind ourselves that we don't live the way we used to live before beginning a relationship with Jesus. We're not that person any longer. Jesus changes us. He has forgiven us. Because of this, we can set aside unforgiveness and exchange it for love.

Take a few moments to read Paul's two lists in Colossians 3:5–14: The things to put off and the things to put on.

What do you need to put off and put on this week? Remember, God is the One who empowers you. You need only to submit your heart and mind to Him; He does the rest!

—Tom Bump

Children's Ministry Leader, Author, and Coach

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

There were Jews who lived in Colossae, but the recipients of the letter of Colossians appear to be mostly Greek and non-Jewish Christians. Paul builds them up by contrasting their former way of life—following pagan religious standards—to their new way of life in Christ.

WHAT?

Christians in Colossae were facing mixed religious teaching (see especially [Colossians 2:16–23](#)). But in contrast to the empty promises of mysticism, God’s hidden purposes have already been revealed in and through Jesus.

WHERE?

Colossae was a small city in Phrygia. As part of the Roman Empire, its residents looked to Rome as their source of peace, wealth, and security. The letter to the Colossians paints fruitfulness and hope in heaven as far greater than these things ([1:3–6](#)).

WHEN?

There seems to have been a major earthquake in the Lycus Valley where the city of Colossae was located, perhaps around AD 60. It makes sense to think that Paul would have been writing to the city and its Christian church before this tragedy

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

The glory of God that once filled the temple has now filled the people of God. Followers of Jesus are God’s temple ([1 Corinthians 3:16–17](#)). The indwelling Holy Spirit makes God’s people holy—set apart for God. Their conduct is meant to reflect this.



Curiosity

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: dolls with clothes (could be paper dolls, magnetic wooden dress-up dolls, or toy baby dolls)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Living in Peace Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Put on Love

Set-up: Provide a variety of dolls with clothes, such as paper dolls, magnetic wooden dress-up dolls, or toy baby dolls.

Play: Share with the kids that in God's big story today, we will learn that we should "put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes" ([Colossians 3:12](#)). Encourage the kids to play together with the dolls and put different clothes on the dolls.

Play Station: Living in Peace Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw an outfit they like to wear.