

GROWING UP IN THE LORD

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Week 5: Will You Dare To Be Different?



In the past few weeks, we've talked about a lot of things that will help you grow as a Christian. We've talked about how you can be a bright light in a dark world by changing some things in your life. We've discussed how you can limit the effects of peer pressure, in your life, and you learned how to get up when your feeling down. If you've done this book faithfully, congratulations! In the final week, the question is, "Will you dare to be different?"

DAY 1

WHAT WE SAY

(Date)

Let's look at some ways in which God expects us to be different from the world around us. Let's start by examining the things we say. How is your language? Is it honoring to God, or would He be ashamed of how you talk with your friends who don't know Christ?

Read Exodus 20:7

What does it mean to "*misuse the name of the Lord*"?

Do you do that?

Read James 3:9-12

Write out what you think this passage is saying:

What about how we talk to others—is that important?

Read Colossians 4:5-6

What does it mean that your speech should be “*seasoned with salt*”? (hint: what does salt do to food?)

See Colossians 3:15-17

List some ways that God would like us to talk:

DAY 2

LYING

(Date)

All of us have been guilty of lying at some point in our lives. This includes the “little white lies” we tell to get us out of trouble. How do you think God feels about that?

What does God say about lying in **Colossians 3:9**?

Let’s look further into God’s opinion of lying in **Revelation 21:8** and in **Proverbs 19:5**. What are these verses saying (in your own words)?

Read Ephesians 4:17-25

Is lying a characteristic of the “old self” or the “new self”? Why?

Which do you want to be like?

DAY 3

OLD SELF VS. NEW SELF

(Date)

Read Ephesians 4:22-24

This is the “put off”—“put on” principle. It simply shows us that when we put off something bad, like wrongful sexual behavior, we should replace it with something good, like more time with God. After reading this passage, list some things you think God wants you to put off:

PUT OFF

What are some things you could “put on” in place of some of the negative things you listed?

PUT ON

DAY 4

HOW TO CHANGE

(Date)

What are things we can do in our lives to help change us into who God wants us to be? The Bible is full of suggestions: reading your Bible, praying, faithfully attending church, witnessing, and serving. Let's review the first three for today.

What do the following verses say that reading the Bible does for you?

Psalm 119:105 _____

Psalm 119:9 _____

John 15:3 _____

Proverbs 3:5-6 _____

Proverbs 1:7 _____

Psalm 1 _____

DAY 5

JESUS' EXAMPLE

(Date)

What example did Jesus give us in the area of prayer in **Mark 1:35**?

What promises are made in the following verses?

Jeremiah 33:3

John 15:7

2 Chronicles 7:14

God will answer our prayers!

1 Samuel 12:22-24 tells us that it is a sin to not pray!

God also wants us to attend church faithfully (very often).

Read Hebrews 10:19-25

Write out what you think verse 25 is saying:

DAY 6

SERVING GOD

(Date)

What does it mean to serve the Lord? It could be inviting a friend to church, helping out an elderly person, or going on a mission trip. Many times we make serving the Lord an optional thing that we do only if we have time.

What does God say about service in the following verses?

Deuteronomy 6:13

Deuteronomy 10:12

Deuteronomy 10:20

Deuteronomy 11:13

Read Matthew 6:19-24

What does God say about trying to serve Him *and* yourself?

Check out 1 Samuel 12:24

Why should we serve the Lord? _____

DAY 7

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

(Date)

God definitely wants us, as Christians, to be different from the rest of the world. Why? Because He has something great to offer the world (salvation) and we have to be the “light” to show them. A light is definitely distinct from the darkness!

Let’s look at 1 Timothy 4:12-13

How does Paul tell Timothy to avoid being looked down on?

What does it mean to be an example?

List some ways that you can be an example to those around you:

What are some of the ways Paul lists to Timothy?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Let's look at these in depth. We've already discussed being an example in the world by using the proper language and avoiding lying. What about the others? How can you be an example in your conversations or your conduct?

What about being an example in your love for others?

In your spirit (your attitude)?

How about your faith (your faithfulness to God)?

Or in your purity (clean living)?

Paul reminds us in verse 13 (1 Tim. 4) of the ways to do these things. What are they?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

BUILDING SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

Living the Christian life comes with many blessings but only if you'll do it God's way. Decide right now that you're going to live the rest of your life for God, serving Him the best you know how, seeking His will, reading His Word, and trusting His guidance (Proverbs 3:5-6). My prayer for you is that you "continue in what you have learned" (2 Tim. 3:14).

