

## Week Two

Discover

### Read

Last week you focused on the importance of looking into the future and having dreams of how your life will go. This week you are going to start to put some of the steps in place to help you accomplish who God wants you to be. The best example for this is Paul. Paul was a man whose life was heading in a direction away from God. He spent his time persecuting Jesus' followers and proving Christianity wrong. But he had an eye opening experience with God. To read about this visit Acts chapter 9. Instead of focusing on that event, I would like you to read more about his explanation of how God changed him and continues to change him.

These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal, there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all! As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with 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 the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs 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.

— Colossians 3:1-17

How many times did Paul mention clothing yourself? What a great metaphor for change. We take off our old selves and put on our new selves. Think about a time you were dirty or wet and how putting on fresh clothes made you feel. That is how Paul explains his transition from a selfish person to a Christ-centered person. This week you will be asked how you might become the Christ-centered person Paul is describing.

## **Day 8**

### **Journal and Reflect**

Many times, we feel that school is not going to help us later life. The fact is that the way we approach learning is an indication of how we approach the rest of life. We can be dedicated and interested. We can be critical and inquisitive. We can be lazy. As you begin your second week of the new school year, think about ways you can approach homework and projects as a discipline. Journal about the parts of school that interest you and how they can change the rest of your life. Think about the areas of school that bore you. Journal on ways you can make these areas more interesting to you.

### **Pray**

Thank God for the ability and opportunity for free and quality education. Pray for those around the world that are hungry for knowledge but are not allowed access.