

Youth Assembly scripture presentations

Colossians 3:12-17

July 6-10, 2009

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This series of scripture readings is designed for presentation using a variety of common themes within a motif of contrasts. For example, themes of “put off and put on,” “inside and outside” “chosen and overlooked”

The first reading attempts to set up the “choosing” and setting apart” in contrast to how unnoticed people can often feel in their acute need to be affirmed and to belong.

The overall, gradually unveiling message will hopefully result in recognizing God’s loving act of choosing, Christ’s presence within, and setting that presence free from the inside out in acts of celebration and service.

Monday - Col 3:12a - Chosen holy and loved

Tuesday - Col 3:12b - Stripping off the old

Wednesday - Col 3:13-14 – Relationships (bearing each other) “Above all”

Thursday - Col 3:15-16 - Christ within you

Friday - Col 3:17 - Christ visible on the outside (how to live)

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Monday evening

Colossians 3:12a

(This reading is set up for 5 readers. The stage could be arranged to add an experiential dimension to the readings. Those reading the “positive” sides of the contrasts could be in a more visible spot, perhaps elevated and bright, while the other readers could be in a darker area, even obscured by greenery or a curtain. The “God” or “scripture” voice could be at the centre).

1: As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved

2: As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved

1: God’s chosen ones

2: Chosen

3: *Not overlooked*

2: Noticed among the millions

4: *Not ignored among the masses*

1: Selected

4: *Not passed over*

2: Esteemed and essential

4: *Not brushed off*

1: Called

4: *Out of a grey anonymous mist*

2: To be known and named

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5: "You whom I took from the ends of the earth and called from its farthest corners, I have chosen you and not cast you off."

1: God's chosen ones, holy

2: Holy and set apart

3: For grand purposes, vast and vital

4: *Rising above the usual and normal*

2: Placed on the stage of life

5: "A chosen race a royal priesthood a holy nation, a city on a hill"

1: God's chosen ones, holy and beloved

2: Beloved

4: *Filled with and wrapped with and lavished with love*

3: Loved, treasured, valued, wanted

5: "With whom God is well pleased"

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Tuesday morning
Col 3: 12-14

L1 and L2: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

L1: You are God's chosen ones;

L2: holy and beloved.

L1 and L2: Brothers and sisters beloved by God

L1: Clothe yourselves with the colours of God's cloth

L2: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion

(a. wraps turquoise coloured scarf around shoulder – picks up a ladle and pours soup into bowl held by b. – both freeze mid pour)

L1: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, and kindness

(b. unfreezes, drapes pink scarf around shoulder, kneels and puts bandage on c.'s knee, wipes tear from c's eye - freeze)

L2: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, and humility,

(c. unfreezes, drapes earth tones scarf around shoulder and begins to wash d (who is sitting on a chair with bare feet)'s feet - freeze)

L1: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, and gentleness

(d. unfreezes and drapes green scarf around shoulder and bends to pick a flower and smell it – and then goes to pass flower to e - freeze)

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L2: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience

(e. unfreezes and drapes blue scarf around shoulder and takes a deep breath – sighs - freezes)

L1: You are God's chosen ones, *(L1 and L2 with arms outstretched)*

L2: holy and beloved,

L1 and L2: brothers and sisters beloved by God.

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Tuesday evening

Colossians 3:12b

(This reading could be presented very rhythmically with lots of dynamics, accompanied by a drum. It could increase in volume and intensity to certain points, then begin another cycle. The “tearing of seams...” line could be spoken in “whispery” tones by a chorus of people)

2: As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience

(Drum begins)

Chorus: The tearing of seams, the sliding of zippers, the popping of buttons and buckles

1: Put off

2: Put on

1: Put off

2: Put on

Chorus: The tearing of seams, the sliding of zippers, the popping of buttons and buckles

1: Put off

2: Put on

1: Put off

2: Put on

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Chorus: The tearing of seams, the sliding of zippers, the popping of buttons and buckles

1: Stripping away the old

2: Getting dressed with the new

(Pause in reading, drum continues)

1: Put off

3: *Greed*

2: Put on

4: Compassion

1: Put off

3: *Anger*

2: Put on

4: Kindness

1: Put off

3: *Malice*

2: Put on

4: Humility

1: Put off

3: *Slander*

2: Put on

4: Meekness

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1: Put off

3: *Wrath*

2: Put on

4: Patience

Chorus: The tearing of seams, the sliding of zippers, the popping of buttons and buckles

1: Stripping away the old

2: Getting dressed with the new

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Wednesday morning

Colossians 3:12-14a

2 people dressed in black begin by standing back to back (can be a few feet apart depending on length of cloth) in a hostile position (arms crossed, fists, angry faces)

Dancer comes in – people on stage do their thing (stand) – Dancer waves scarves around. The Reader reads slowly with pauses between each line as the dancer weaves cloths around people on stage as each trait/colour is named. As each colour is added the two people loosen their stance and facial expressions soften.

Reader: You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved. (Slowly)

Clothed with compassion – deep and calm like the quiet **turquoise** waters,

with warm kindness; free flowering and inviting. (pink)

With down-to-earth and unpretentious humility, (brown)

with meekness - life-giving, encouraging and fruitful (green)

and with the clear serenity of a patient heart. (blue)

Do not doubt this. You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved.

Bear with one another and forgive each other;

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Dancer moves people together face to face and begins to weave the white. They should be smiling as they end.

Reader: just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe your bodies, minds, emotions and souls with love

Love, which embraces all and binds everything together in perfect harmony.

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Wednesday evening

Colossians 3:13-14

(This one can be read reflectively and deliberately, drawing out the word imagery)

1: 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.

2: Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony

1: Above all, love

3: Lofty, soaring, exalted, suspended, way up high! Higher than complaints and criticism, higher than conflicts and clashes

4: Way up high, but still as close as my coziest hoodie

1: Above all, love

3: Floating, like a living cloud that moves and changes and becomes many shapes, adapting to the flow of reality

4: Floating, but still at my fingertips

1: Above all, love

3: Hovering, covering a multitude of sins, buffering painful edges, protecting fragile friendships

4: Hovering above but wrapping me like a blanket

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1: Above all, love

2: Love, which binds everything together. Binding like a bandage that heals, a scarf that warms, a belt that keeps

1: Love, which creates harmony

2: My voice with yours

1: Your voice with mine

1&3: Theirs with ours

2&4: Our with theirs

All: |Everything. Together. Perfect.

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Thursday

Colossians 3:15-16

(3 readers, one for OT, one for Psalms and one for NT. During the reading a group of about 8 form a circle holding the white Christ fabric and some kind of light on the inside of the circle)

All: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

Reader 1: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

All: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

Reader 1: I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh.

All: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

Reader 2: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

All: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

Reader 1: I will put my spirit **within** you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.

All: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

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Reader 2: *I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.*

Reader 3: ***Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may become clean.***

All: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

Reader 3: ***Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but inside they are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of filth. So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.***

All: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

Reader 3: ***When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.***

All: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

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Friday

Colossians 3:17

1: 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.

2: Words

1: Much is achieved by the speaking of a word

3: Longings satisfied

4: Sadness softened

5: Laughter summoned

2: We need words

1: We need words that are beautiful

6: So beautiful that they astound and overwhelm, leaving us teachable.

1: We need words that are heavy

6: So heavy that we struggle under them

1: We need words that are sharp

6: So sharp that they cut through layers of conventional wisdom and muffled mentalities.

1: We need words that are gentle

6: So gentle that they kiss our consciousness

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1: We need words that are radical

6: So radical that they disarm us of immobilizing thoughts.

2: We need words that do not stop after they've been spoken, but are reflected and mirrored by those who give them voice, and those who hear them.

1: We need all of these words spoken in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

2: Much is achieved with the doing of a deed

3: Hunger is satisfied

4: Loneliness is softened

5: Inclusion is summoned

6: When Lord, when did we see you hungry or alone or excluded?

1: Each word and each deed does not stay inside but comes out to express love

6: Comes out to forgive

1: Comes out to celebrate

6: Comes out to heal

1: Comes out to work

6: Comes out to play

2: In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ