



OUT WITH the OLD

DIGGING DEEPER:

(Read Colossians 3:1-11)

This portion of scripture is packed with truth. Let's consider 2 big concepts to kick around with your family this week, 1) putting something to death and 2) Christ is all and in all:

- 1) What does it mean to put something to death?
- 2) What does Paul focus on right before stating the truth, "Christ is all and in all"? Why do you think he focuses on this? What does that mean for us today?

In question #1, obviously the object God wants us to put to death is sin and immoral behavior. Read Romans 6:13 and Romans 8:13. This should allow for a good conversation about the Holy Spirit's role in putting sin to death. Talk about what is meant by "earthly nature" or "earthly things". Remember, we can't do this under our own power.

In question #2, Paul says, "Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free..." right before his statement about Christ. Have a conversation about why Paul ties racial and social equality with Christ? Depending on your kids' ages, this might be a great opportunity to talk about all of the racial tension in America today. The protests during the national anthem and NFL football games is back in the news. In light of this verse, Jesus is the one true answer to what ails America. Have a discussion about our response as Christians to this issue.

Remember, you are your child's first and best discipler. This is an opportunity to disciple your child in an area they will be confronted with. It's great practice. Have fun with it. You don't have to know everything and be perfect, just be willing to start the conversation.

ACTIVITY:

Set Your Minds Above

(Colossians 3:1-2)

Materials: Clear Glass – Tap water – 2 pennies

Steps:

1. Drop the pennies beside one another on the floor
2. Fill your glass with tap water
3. Put it on top of one penny and let the water settle
4. Stand up and then compare the two
5. Which penny looks bigger? Which looks closer?

Answer: The penny under the glass, to some people, looks like it's been raised maybe an inch off the floor somehow. To others, it merely looks slightly bigger.

Explanation: As light enters the water in the glass, the speed at which it is traveling slows down. The rounded shape of the glass (and hence, of the water) causes the light to bend outwards. As it bends, it extends the image it surrounds outward slightly as well, making the object appear larger. It works as a magnifier. This is one reason never to trust what you see when jumping into a pool or lake. The bottom of the water can look closer than it is, and people jumped in water over their heads, thinking they would be able to stand up easily.

Understanding God: This experiment shows us again that things are not always as they appear. Things were made to look bigger than they actually were. In this life, we make a big deal out of things like cars and houses and clothes and possessions. They take up a big space in our minds – sometimes too often! But Colossians 3:1 tells us: *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.* When we get to heaven, the glass will be taken away. We'll see then how small and unimportant those things really were. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. Then, God will give you just the right amount of all that good stuff.