

Radically Changed

By Jill Meek

for use as
STEP 1

Lesson 2 Focus:

God expects radical change in those who trust Him.

Lesson 2 Bible Basis:

Mark 15:34;
Colossians 3:1-14

Lesson 2 Memory Verse:

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. —Colossians 3:1-2

After watching and discussing a video about quick change artists, students will consider quick vs. radical change.

Materials:

Internet access

Have you ever watched a quick-change artist perform? Perhaps at a half-time show of a sporting event? Quick-change artists do just what their job title says—they change outfits quickly. They take a task that would typically take a minute or two and some maneuvering and they do it in just a few seconds, effortlessly, right before your eyes with just the wave of a cloth or burst of confetti. Let's watch:

Play the following video [4:19]:
Wardrobe WIZARDS!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9itxSl3ySM>

A dramatic change can be very interesting to witness. This is probably why we like shows that reveal a made-over or made-better person or place at the end.

➤ **What about you? Do you like change or resist change? Why?** (Answers will vary. Some people thrive on change for the sake of variety and excitement and others resist it because they feel comfortable with what they know. Most teens will likely have examples of both.)

➤ **Have you ever changed or seen someone change their behavior or personality situationally (a real-life quick-change?) Tell about that.** (Accept all reasonable answers. Common examples of this could be pretending to be doing homework like you said you were going to when a parent walks in on you watching YouTube, or someone pretending to like something only when a certain person is around in an attempt to impress them.)

➤ **Have you ever changed or seen someone change their behavior or personality in a long-lasting way (a true transformation)? Tell about that.** (Accept all reasonable answers. This can happen for better or worse, perhaps after a life-changing event, or new social group, or through hard work and motivation to improve.)

➤ **Do you think change is something God wants from us? Why or why not?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Students may want to consider many aspects of this. We don't have to change who we are to be Christians or be loved by God, as God has made and gifted us each uniquely, but just as we grow physically, we grow in our faith which requires change—repenting of old ways and becoming more and more like Christ.)

The Bible says that when we know and follow Jesus, it is like taking off old clothes and putting on new clothes. In other words, we are meant to change. When we walk with Jesus, we are meant to truly transform to become more like Him.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

high school



reallife
DOWNLOADED

Lesson 2 / March 8, 2020

Radically Changed

Lesson 2

Focus:

God expects radical change in those who trust Him.

Lesson 2

Bible Basis:

Mark 15:34;
Colossians 3:1-14

Lesson 2

Memory Verse:

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. —Colossians 3:1-2

Materials:

- Internet access
- Printouts of Dr. Wenliang's poem (1 per student; found at end of lesson)
- Optional: Whiteboard and marker

Before class, print out enough copies of Dr. Wenliang's poem so that each of your students has a copy (poem at end of lesson).

Spoiler alert—the secret to a quick-change act is shedding layers one by one. Leaving behind our old sinful ways is step one of our spiritual transformation, but step two is putting on the new Christ-like ways. Rather than simply dropping from certain habits or abstaining from some things, we are to actively pursue good, putting on new behaviors and temperaments that imitate Christ, edify each other, and are grounded in love.

➤ **Have you ever tried to drop a habit, motivated by your faith or otherwise? Tell about that.** (Answers and motivations will vary. Answers may range from the insignificant to much more serious. Some examples within this range may include: nail biting, knuckle-cracking, hitting snooze, swearing, gossiping, copying homework, lying to parents, drinking, etc. Sometimes these habit-shifts stick and sometimes not.)

➤ **Have you ever tried to take on a positive change, motivated by your faith or otherwise? Tell about that.** (Answers and motivations will vary. Answers may range from the insignificant to much more serious. Some examples within this range may include: exercising, eating more vegetables, journaling, praying daily, starting a Bible study, writing encouraging notes to friends and classmates, mentoring a younger person, serving the community, and more. Some may have success stories, and others may have faced challenges in making their change.)

Every day is another opportunity to keep growing in your faith and transforming to be more like Christ. Before we go today, let's consider what transformations each of us would like to make and what that might look like.

Read the passage aloud and enlist a student to write some key words on a whiteboard if you have one (or use your materials from Step 2)—the things we are meant to shed and the things we are meant to put on in our walk with God. Once your students have had a chance to brainstorm, point out that among other things, to wear compassion might look like seeking out those in need, offering help, and advocating for them.

You've all probably heard of the coronavirus discovered in China, recently named Covid-19. As of the middle of February, cases of this virus topped 72,500 with over 1,800 related deaths. All across China, people are talking about Dr. Li Wenliang. He was the doctor who discovered the virus and in the early morning of February 7, 2020, he himself died from the virus after catching it from his patients.

Back in December last year, he was arrested in China for being a whistle-blower (spreading rumors) about a mysterious pneumonia-like virus. It has been reported that he was a brother in Christ. He did exactly what we've been talking about: he sought out those in need, offered help, and advocated for them.

He continued to care for patients up until he was infected himself. What a legacy to leave behind of what it means to be like Jesus to those hurting in a time of crisis. He chose to be an example of Immanuel, ‘God with us’ to the people of Wuhan. Can you imagine the joy he must have felt as he entered into eternity and heard the words of Jesus, “Well done, my good and faithful servant”?

So today, let’s pray for his family. Although we’ve been unable to find out an update, it was reported that his wife is also infected and pregnant with their second child. May God heal them supernaturally and give them grace, peace, strength, and comfort during this time. This week spend some time praying for the doctor’s family and all those affected by the virus worldwide.

It’s reported that after his death, someone penned a poem in his memory. Hand out a copy of Dr. Li Wenliang’s poem. If time allows, have a volunteer read it aloud.

Close in prayer using these requests as a guideline and asking God to show all of you how to shed sinfulness and put on compassion, love, and other Christ-like ways.

(We are not affiliated with and do not endorse any website or any other media listed on these pages. At the time of writing, we carefully review the referenced material and non-referenced web page content. However, due to the nature of the Internet, non-cited content on the website [including pop-ups, links, and ads] changes frequently and is beyond our control. Please review carefully before showing links in the classroom.)

"The Hero Who Told The Truth"

Here is a captivating, heart-touching Chinese poem translated into English. It was written in memory of Dr. Li Wen Liang, a Christian doctor and whistle-blower who died from the coronavirus himself after being punished for issuing the first warning about the deadly coronavirus outbreak.

我不想當英雄。
我還有爹娘，
還有孩子，
還有懷孕臨產的妻，
還有許多的病人在病房。
儘管正直換不來善良，
儘管迴途迷茫，
可還是要繼續進行，
誰讓我選擇了這國這家，
多少委屈，
等打完這仗，
垂淚如雨仰天遠望。

"I don't want to be a hero.
I still have my parents,
And my children,
And my pregnant wife who's about to give birth,
And many of my patients in the ward.
Though my integrity cannot be exchanged for
the goodness of others,
Despite my loss and confusion,
I should proceed anyway.
Who let me choose this country and this family?
How many grievances do I have?
When this battle is over,
I will look up to the sky,
With tears like rain."

我不想當英雄。
只是做為醫生，
我不能眼看著這不明的病毒，
傷害著我的同行。
還有那多無辜的人們，
他們儘管已奄奄一息，
可眼睛裏總望著我，
帶著生命的希望。

"I don't want to be a hero.
But as a doctor,
I cannot just see this unknown virus
Hurting my peers
And so many innocent people.
Though they are dying,

They are always looking at me in their eyes,
With their hope of life."

誰成想我競死了！
我的靈魂分明在天上，
望著那張白色的病床，
床上分明是我的軀體，
軀體上還是那熟悉的臉龐。
我的父親母親在哪？
還有我親愛的妻子，
那當年我苦苦追求的姑娘。

"Who would have ever realized that I was going to die?

My soul is in heaven,
Looking at the white bed,
On which lies my own body,
With the same familiar face.
Where are my parents?
And my dear wife,
The lady I once had a hard time chasing?"

天上有一道光！
那光的盡頭是人們時常說起的天堂。
我寧願不去哪裏，
我寧願回到武漢我的家鄉。

那裏有我新買的房子，
每月還要還貸的賬。
我怎能舍得，
我怎能舍得！

沒有兒子的爹娘，
該有多麼悲傷；
沒有了丈夫的寶貝，
該如何面對這未來的滄桑。

"There is a light in the sky!
At the end of that light is the heaven that people often talk about.

But I'd rather not go there.
I'd rather go back to my hometown in Wuhan.
I have my new house there,
For which I still have to pay off the loan every month.

How can I give up?
How can I give up?
For my parents without their son,

How sad must it be?
For my sweetheart without her husband,
How can she face the vicissitudes in her future?"

我分明死了。
我看見他們把我的軀殼，
裝進一個袋子。
在袋子的近傍
有許多死去的同胞，
象我一樣，
在黎明時分，
被推進火的爐堂。

"I am already gone.
I see them taking my body,
Putting it into a bag,
With which lie many compatriots
Gone like me,
Being pushed into the fire in the hearth
At dawn."

再見了，難舍的親人。
永別了，武漢我的故鄉。
但願你們在災難過後，
還記得曾經有人，
努力地讓你們盡早知道真相。
但願你們在災難過後，
學會正直，
不再讓善良的人們，
遭受著無盡的恐懼，
和無奈的悲傷。

"Goodbye, my dear ones.
Farewell, Wuhan, my hometown.
Hopefully, after the disaster,
You'll remember someone once
Tried to let you know the truth as soon as possible.
Hopefully, after the disaster,
You'll learn what it means to be righteous.
No more good people
Should suffer from endless fear,
And helpless sadness."

“那美好的仗我已經打完了，
應行的路我已行盡了，
當守的道我守住了。
從此以後，
有公義的冠冕為我留存。”

《聖經》提摩太後書4. 7
"I have fought the good fight.
I have finished the race.
I have kept the faith.

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness..." 2 Timothy 4:7

