

GETTING PERSONAL

1. What do you think living an #unselfie life means for you at home? Which of the following do you want to work on? The list below may help you to come up with some ideas.
2. What do you think living an #unselfie life means for you at school/work? Which of the following do you want to work on? The list below may help you to come up with some ideas.
3. Pray for one another asking God to help you to be more “unselfie” in the way you live at home and at school/work.

Characteristics of an #unselfie life towards others

- *Helping when not asked*
- *Saying thank you and showing appreciation*
- *Accepting it when I don't get my own way*
- *Finding out what would be helpful for someone and doing it for them*
- *Be more conscious of how my actions and attitudes affect other people*
- *Be humble around others and not boast about yourself*
- *Look for ways to compliment and encourage other people*
- *Forgive people when they wrong you*
- *Allowing other people to get their own way*
- *Letting another person go first or letting them choose first*
- *Doing things that don't suit you but suit other people*



GETTING STARTED

1. Suppose someone set out to act unselfishly and to serve others. They put the needs of others ahead of their own and sacrifice all their own ambitions and plans. What do you think would happen to such a person?
2. You're angry! You have tried your best to be a servant to your friends, but increasingly they have used you. Now you have overheard them talking about you and laughing at the way they use you to get whatever they want. Should you continue to be a servant?
3. You get so frustrated with your parents. They are always telling you what to do and complain when you don't do it. Yet when you want them to do something for you they say you're being selfish and then get mad at you when you argue with them. Do you think they have a point?

DIGGING DEEPER

Discuss the following statements and decide whether you agree or disagree:

- *Allowing others to have their way is a sign of weakness*
- *If people are taking advantage of you, then you should stop helping them*
- *It's harder to be served than to serve*

INTO THE BIBLE

1. Read [Romans 12:9-21](#) on the facing page.

If you had to choose one verse or phrase out of this passage that talks about something that really annoys you in other people, which verse would you choose and why?

If you had to choose one verse or phrase out of this passage that talks about something that you struggle to live up to, which verse would you choose and why?

If you had to choose one verse or phrase out of this passage that summarises the whole passage, which verse would you choose and why?

2. Read [1 John 3:11,14-19](#) on the facing page.

Complete the following sentence: "If someone is *really* a Christian (as opposed to just saying they are) I would expect to see them..."

ROMANS 12:9-21

⁹Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other. ¹¹Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹²Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. ¹⁵Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

¹⁷Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honourable. ¹⁸Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

¹⁹Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord.

²⁰Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads."

²¹Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

1 JOHN 3:11,14-19

¹¹This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

¹⁴If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead. ¹⁵Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them.

¹⁶We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?

¹⁸Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. ¹⁹Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God.

GETTING PERSONAL

1. What is the cost to you of following Jesus? Are there things you have had to give up?
2. How hard was it to make sacrifices? Why did you do it?
3. Refer back to your list on the second page. If someone could see the future and was to tell you that you would eventually turn away from God, which item on the list do you think would be the most likely cause?
4. Read through the list below. Which points do you most need to heed?
5. Pray for one another asking God to help you to be more “unselfie” toward God and to overcome the pressures and temptations you face.

Characteristics of an #unselfie life towards God

- *In all important life decisions, seeking to know and do His will.*
- *Taking time to read the Bible and pray to Him.*
- *Avoiding behaviour that displeases Him.*
- *Filling your mind with things that please Him.*
- *Treating other people as we would treat Jesus.*
- *Spending time with people who will cause you to love God more—not less.*
- *Being aware of those things that could lead you to stop following God.*
- *Using our time in a way that reflects His priorities for our life.*



GETTING STARTED

1. If you could be outstanding at one thing what would it be? It could be in the field of sports, the arts, academics etc.

What would you have to do to be successful? What sacrifices would you make to achieve your goals?

2. Living an #unselfie life towards God means that His will comes before our own—this is what it means to be a Christian. Read through the statements below and change them to reflect what it means to live and #unselfie life before God.
 - *I am the boss of my own life - no one tells me what to do!*
 - *It doesn't matter what you do, as long as you're happy.*
 - *Live for today—who knows what will happen tomorrow.*
 - *Look out for yourself first. No one else will!*

DIGGING DEEPER

If you were to conduct a survey on the things that most commonly cause young people to turn away from God what would be on your list? Brainstorm together and compile a joint list.

What items should be at the top of your list.

For each item on your list, what advice would you give to young people to whom it applied?

INTO THE BIBLE

1. Read [Luke 9:57-62](#) on the facing page.

What do you think is the main point Jesus is making to these three people?

2. Read [Matthew 7:21-23](#).

We all break God's laws—none of us are perfect. So is this saying none of us will enter the kingdom of heaven? Explain.

3. Read [Colossians 3:1-6](#).

What do you think it might mean for us in practice to “set your sights on the realities of heaven”?

LUKE 9:57-62

⁵⁷ As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

⁵⁸ But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.”

⁵⁹ He said to another person, “Come, follow me.”

The man agreed, but he said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.”

⁶⁰ But Jesus told him, “Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.”

⁶¹ Another said, “Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family.”

⁶² But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plough and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”

MATTHEW 7:21-23

²¹ “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²² On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ ²³ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

COLOSSIANS 3:1-6

¹ Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honour at God’s right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. ⁶ Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.