



SESSION 3: ZACK ATTACK: WHOLEHEARTED SURRENDER

1—LIKE A CHILD

If you like little kids (and even if you don't), make your way to Matthew 18:1-4.

Megan has come to you feeling really worried. Her twin sister, Erin, came home from last week's Bible study on Matthew 18 and started to change. Although you missed the Bible study and had no idea what Matthew 18 was about, you are surprised as she tells you that Erin has started sucking her thumb and sleeping with her teddy bear. At night she even wears flannel pajamas with little footies in them.

You figure that if you are going to help Erin, you should read Matthew 18. As soon as you finish, you realize the problem. Erin's problem is that she thinks that Jesus was talking about *acting* like a child instead of being humble like a child. Oops!

Shine a flashlight into your own life to see if there is any pride in there and take a few minutes to confess it to God. Ask Him to make you as humble as a little kid (and, no, that doesn't mean you have to wear flannel pajamas with footies in them).

2—DON'T SPILL!

Race to Luke 5:36-39 and see if you can get there first.

Which spill would be the hardest to clean up?

- ☐ Grape juice on the white couch
- ☐ Ice cream in your sister's hair (don't ask)
- ☐ Chocolate syrup puddled on brown carpet
- ☐ Ink from a blue pen on blue jeans nearly the same color

The truth is that none of them would be very fun to clean up, but the one that would probably prove the most difficult would be the grape juice. If you were the one cleaning up, you wouldn't want grape juice to spill—and neither would Jesus.

In Luke 5:36-39, Jesus talked about new wine spilling. This was a real problem when new wine was poured into old wineskins—the old skins often broke open and spilled the new wine all over the place. In the same way, when Jesus does new things in your life, He wants you to change along the way. He wants you to be a new wineskin, securely holding what He has poured into you.

Are there any habits you have that are keeping you from Him? It could be cheating, looking at Internet porn, gossiping or something else. Chances are that only you and God know about it. Take a few minutes to confess it to Him and ask God to help you run away from it, to become the new wineskin He wants you to be.

3—STITCHED TOGETHER

If you like new things, check out 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

Jon raced after school to meet his friends and play touch football in the park a few blocks from his house. Usually he went home first to change from his nicer shirt to one he kept for football, but today he didn't have time, since he had to stay a little late in P.E. to help the coach clean up the softball equipment.

The game went great. Jon made a couple of really good catches, and his team won 17 to 14. Over dinner, as Jon was telling his family about his game, his stepdad asked him what had happened to his shirt. Jon looked over and was bummed when he saw a hole about the size of two quarters over his right elbow. It must have happened when he played defense and tried to grab the other team's running back.

Before Jon had a chance to get too sad about it, his stepdad asked him to take off the shirt so he could sew it back together. Luckily, his stepdad had done some minor sewing on uniforms when he was in the Marines, and in just a matter of minutes, he handed the shirt back to Jon, who couldn't believe his eyes . . . it looked as good as new!

The truth is that more than our shirts are ruined until we know Jesus. Before we come to know Christ, our entire life is ripped and tattered. He comes and sews us up, making us new creations. Today, spend some extra time thanking God for making you a new creation and for all the people He put in your life to help you learn about Him.

4—WHAT REALLY COUNTS

If you want to know the kind of changes that really matter, blitz to Galatians 6:12-18.

If you were trying to annoy your non-Christian friends with the fact that you are a Christian, which would be the most obnoxious?

- ☐ Wearing a T-shirt every day that listed their names and the fact that they are going to hell
- ☐ Putting John 3:16 bumper stickers on their lockers and book covers
- ☐ Singing hymns as you walk around the halls with them

It's hard to pick which is the most obnoxious because they're all pretty annoying. When the apostle Paul, the author of most of the New Testament letters, wrote that circumcision (the

traditional way Jews identified themselves as God's people) was unnecessary for Christians, he was encouraging people to look beyond outward appearances to the hearts of people. He exclaims, "What really counts is a new creation."

How can people see your heart—the heart that has been changed by Jesus—today? How can you share all He has done for you? Ask God to show you how and to give you courage to use the opportunities He gives you. It's almost guaranteed He will provide some for you today!