

When Jesus was resurrected, God released power into the world.

Ephesians 1:19-20 NLT - 19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

At New Life we have a unique opportunity to unleash the power of resurrection to a community half-way around the world. By partnering with World Vision, we are giving children in Kenya a chance to choose a sponsor who will be a part of their spiritual journey. Children who were powerless and without hope will now know the relationship to a supportive community of believers. The same power that raised Jesus from the grave is available to bring them new life.

Discuss with your group the differences a sponsorship would make in the life of a child. Pray and ask God if He is calling you to be a part of World Vision's Chosen sponsorship.

WRAP-UP

God gave us our identity as His image bearers and stewards in the Garden of Eden. Sin has ruined our ability to reflect His image, and it has ruined our relationships with one another. But God overcame sin when Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave. The power God released to the world when Jesus was resurrected lives in each believer. God's Spirit gives us the power to spread hope and restoration of our identity and our community to a hurting world.

MEMORY VERSE

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. Romans 8:11 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life.

Challenge- Ask God if He is calling you to take part in sponsoring a World Vision child through Chosen. If He is, text pismo to 56170 to sign up.

"Easter 2021"

INTRODUCTION

Christ is Risen! This is the reason we celebrate Easter. Jesus' resurrection was proof that sin and death did not win, and we saw the power of God demonstrated when Jesus was raised from death to life. But we don't only want to be observers of the resurrection, we want to be participants in living a fully alive, resurrected life, recognizing our identity as God's children and bringing hope to the community of believers. We want to live a life that spreads the promise of resurrection to the whole world.

Ice Breaker

What did you do on Easter Sunday this year? How was it different from last year?

Key Passage

Matthew 28:6 NLT - 6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Our Identity

Genesis 1:26-28 NLT - 26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." 27 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

To understand the resurrection, we need to begin with the "back story" of creation. In Genesis 1:26-27 God made man in His own

image. Amongst everything God created we are uniquely called to carry His likeness and rein over, or steward, creation.

Who is created in God's image? What does that mean for how you view yourself and others? What does that mean for how you live?

Genesis 1:31 NLT - 31 Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

God's creation was "very good". That is the way things were intended to be. While this was God's plan, it didn't take long before sin ruined our ability to reflect God's image.

If Jesus was the perfect reflection of the image of God without the corruption of sin, what are some of the God's qualities that He exemplified perfectly, but that we have not been able to maintain in our own lives?

2. Community

In Eden God placed us in community with one another and with Himself. The relationship was perfect- we were naked but unashamed and God walked with us and spoke to us directly. Look at the way sin changed the relationships in that first "community" between Gen 2:25 and Gen 3:8-12.

Genesis 2:25 NLT - 25 Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

Genesis 3:8-12 NLT - 8 When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. 9 Then the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked." 11 "Who told you that you were naked?" the LORD God asked. "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it."

After they had sinned, how did the relationship between Adam and Eve change? How did Adam's view of God change and what happened to the closeness of the relationship between God and man as a result of sin (Gen 3:23)?

Genesis 3:23 NLT - 23 So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made.

Humanity still suffers the consequences of sin, not only in our relationship with God, but in our relationships with one another.

What stories dominating the news do you think reflect the brokenness of our relationships with one another locally and worldwide?

3. Resurrection

God was not willing to leave us in our sinful and separated condition. It was always His plan to return us to that perfect relationship we had with Him and one another in the Garden. To do that, He was willing to send Jesus to the Cross to die in our place.

Romans 8:23 NLT - 23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

What does Romans 8:23 tell us that we as believers anxiously anticipate? How would receiving full rights as adopted children change our relationship to God (our identity) and one another (community)?

The Spirit now lives in you and He is your source of incredible power to overcome sin and the brokenness it causes. You can live a resurrected life and share that same hope with a hurting world.

Romans 8:11 NLT - 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.