

When God created man, He gave us responsibility to be fruitful and multiply and to steward His creation. God invites us into His purpose and we can join in by taking hold of the resurrection power available to us.

What are the things in your life that you need resurrection power to bring back to life? How do you envision your community receiving the light, life and goodness of God? Restoring relationships? Breaking addictions? Healing sickness? Where do you see God opening a door for you to bring His light and Life into your family or community?

WRAP-UP

Jesus completed the work God had given Him to do on earth as He faced the cross and was crucified for us. But death did not have the final say. The power of Jesus can resurrect dead things. Not only restoring to life Jesus himself, but forgiving, healing, and restoring relationships, hopes and dreams. Our eternal, resurrected life is available to us now. We can join God cultivating goodness in our families and our communities. We can live resurrected and fully alive in Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." John 20:21- NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

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

Challenge- Conclude reading John this week with chapter 21

“Resurrected and Fully Alive” **Believe and Have Life #9**

INTRODUCTION

Throughout our study in the Gospel of John we have focused on our key passage John 20:30-31. In this week’s study we finally catch up to that statement by John explaining why he had chosen to include specific events of Jesus’ ministry. They were included so that we would believe and have life. At the heart of our belief is the greatest sign, that Jesus was resurrected and fully alive. And it is our belief in the resurrected Jesus that leads us to our own passage from spiritual death to eternal life. When we believe in Jesus as Lord, we too are resurrected and fully alive.

Ice Breaker

What is one activity that you enjoy that “breathes new life” into you?

Key Passage

John 20:30-31 NLT - 30 The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Believe and Have Life

Chapter 19 of John recounts Jesus’ trial, crucifixion and death, and in chapter 20 John presents the ultimate sign which leads us to believe Jesus is Messiah; His resurrection from the dead.

Along the way John gives us additional reasons to believe that Jesus is Messiah based on Old Testament prophecy.

John 19:24 NLT - 24 So they said, "Rather than tearing it apart, let's throw dice for it." This fulfilled the Scripture that says, "They divided my garments among themselves and threw dice for my clothing." So that is what they did.

John 19:34-39 NLT - 34 One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. 35 (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also can believe.) 36 These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, "Not one of his bones will be broken," 37 and "They will look on the one they pierced." 38 Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus' body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away. 39 With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes.

The Scriptures (prophecies) John refers to in verses 24 and 35 come from the Psalms, Exodus, Numbers and Zechariah.

Who was acquainted with these prophecies that pointed to the Messiah? Why did some of those who believed, hide that fact (verses 38 Joseph and 39 Nicodemus)? Are there circumstances where believers today hesitate to disclose their faith?

John's reference to fulfilled prophecy would be valuable to counteract the objections that the Jews would undoubtedly have to the idea that their God died on a cross and the eyewitnesses to His resurrection were women, considered not to be credible.

What did John include in verse 35 to emphasize the credibility of his Gospel account?

2. Resurrection brings Healing, Restoration, Forgiveness

1 Timothy 1:16 NLT - 16 But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.

According to 1 Timothy 1:16 what do we receive when we believe in Jesus?

The word for eternal (*aiōnios*) is used of "persons and things which are in their nature endless". We sometimes mistakenly think of eternal life as our life after death, but your eternal life begins when you believe in Jesus. Before that, you were dead in your sins, but once you are made alive in Christ your eternal life began.

In chapter 20 we see the impact that Jesus' resurrection has on the world around us. The first encounter Jesus has after His resurrection is with His disciples.

How did the response of the disciples confirm what Jesus had told them in chapter 16? How does that promise of joy apply to believers today?

John 16:22 NLT - 22 So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy. John 20:19-20 NLT - 19 That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. 20 As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!

God's power was able to resurrect more than the body of Jesus, it also brings life to other things that have died. When Jesus was on trial and crucified the disciples kept a low profile, they scattered. Peter had denied Him.

When you read the encounter of the risen Christ and His disciples in verses 19 – 20 what do you see restored, forgiven, and brought back to life? What have you believed in that instead of resurrection only caused more hurt, pain, suffering, etc.?

3. Resurrect Purpose and Meaning

Genesis 1:27-28 NLT - 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."