

JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: LIVING FOR JESUS / SERIES: GOD IS I AM

BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

1 John 5:20; John 20:31; Mark 12:26

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 11:25

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live...'"

BIG IDEAS

- Sin leads to death.
- Jesus raises the dead to life.
- Life in Jesus is now and forever.

BIBLE PASSAGE: JOHN 11

TRANSFORM: LIVING FOR JESUS

In High School, the Transform Year is an exploration of what it looks like to have transformed influence as we seek to live for a Kingdom that is greater than our own. First, we recognize that we will never be transformed if we are not Living for Jesus. To do this, we must first know who Jesus is by looking at who He says He is (John 8:58), and then look at what the Bible says about how in Him, we live by faith (James 1:6). Next, we recognize that to have transformed influence means that we must live as disciples in pursuit of Christ and His Kingdom over ourselves and our own kingdoms.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know...

- The 8 different "I AM" statements that Jesus uses in the gospel of John.
- We will always be dissatisfied when we search for joy and life apart from Jesus.
- The value and worth of our lives is found in Jesus alone



Every student should feel...

- Awe that God would make a way for our relationship with Him through Jesus.
- Convicted of the lies that they are tempted to believe about Jesus.
- Responsible to use their influence for Jesus alone.



Every student should strive to...

- Read the entire gospel of John.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.
- Practice sharing the truth about who Jesus is using the 'I Am' statements from Scripture



Every student should want to...

- Grow in their understanding of who Jesus is.
- Abide in Christ deeper than they ever have before.
- Be known for how they point people to Jesus with their lives

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 11:25

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live...'"

All life comes from Jesus.

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life.'"

- All things were created through Jesus and made for Him. He is the source of all living things. We have physical life because of Him. He sustains our life and enables us to continue living and breathing on earth. As the Creator of all things, He is the beginning of all things.
- When Jesus says He is the life, He really is the life for all things, but He is eternal life for men and women who believe in His saving power. He came to the earth to make spiritually dead people alive. This is the life that He is referencing when He tells Martha that He is the life. He is the way that those who believe can really live again spiritually.

Jesus makes people new.

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though He die, yet shall he live...'"

- When Jesus says that He is the resurrection, He is speaking about more than just raising people to life again. Because we are all born spiritually dead, we have no hope. When we encounter Jesus, He makes us new. We do not just become better versions of our old selves. We become new people. Our hearts are transformed and we are new creations in Him.
- When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, Lazarus rose to new life. Lazarus would no longer be the same as he was before he entered the tomb. This is symbolic of the life that Jesus gives and the way He makes people new when we have saving faith in Him.

Jesus gives eternal life.

"...Whoever believes in me, though He die, yet shall he live..."

- Most of us will experience a physical death on earth. Most of us will not be raised again to new life on earth like Lazarus was. Death is certain for all except for the people who are living when Jesus returns. What else is certain is the eternal life that Jesus' followers are guaranteed.
- When Jesus says that whoever believes in him will live, He means it. He's not speaking of living forever in this life, but of the eternity that He has promised every person who follows Him. Jesus will raise His people to new life in eternity one day. All those who have believed in Him will be joined with Him forever.

JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

BIG IDEA #1: SIN LEADS TO DEATH.¹

[THIS]

In the beginning when God created the world and the first man and woman, placing them in their first home, He gave them instructions on how to live in the world He had made. His instructions were clear and as is the case with all that God says, His words were true. Disobedience was forbidden and any failure to obey His commands would result in death. God did not hide His commands or the boundaries He set. The first man and woman understood what was expected because they enjoyed a close relationship with God. Yet, they disobeyed Him, and sin entered the world. Close on the heels of sin was death. God said death would come as a consequence of sin and it did. After the first man and woman disobeyed God, death became part of life. We are born and we die now because of the brokenness of the world. God's original design for the world and people didn't include death. Death came as a result of man's sin.

[THEREFORE]

How can you see the brokenness and effects of sin in the world around you today?

Romans 8:19-22 shows us that the physical world reveals the effects of man's sin. When man sinned and death entered the world, the physical world began to decay and die. As the world has aged, it has gradually decayed and will continue to do so until Jesus returns with the new heaven and new earth. We can see death, disease, war, and struggle in the world around us, all as a result of the brokenness of our world.

[THIS]

Our sin not only leads to physical death, but it leads to spiritual death. After Adam and Eve sinned, the very nature of every person born after them was changed. Since then, every human being born into this world is born spiritually dead. To be spiritually dead is to be separated from the only source of life—Jesus. Since life is found in Jesus, to be separated from Him is to be dead. Our sin separates us from God because He set the boundary in the very beginning when He first created the world. He established that man and woman had access to Him when they were perfect. When they sinned, they lost that access. God is a holy and pure God. Our sin keeps us from Him. Because of this, we are blind to His truth. We walk blindly in this world, fumbling through this life. We make choices that lead us away from God, not toward Him. We choose to follow the desires of our hearts and fulfill our flesh natures. We fight with one another and sin against one another. We are deadened in our minds to the spiritual truth of God and cold in our hearts to His love and light. This is the death that is the result of our sin.

[THEREFORE]

What keeps us from realizing we are spiritually dead?

1 Corinthians 2:14 teaches us that the spiritual things of God are not naturally discerned or understood in our sinful state. We are blind to spiritual things. John 9:39 also shows us that we don't realize we are spiritually dead. Until the Spirit draws us to God and opens our eyes, we don't know we need Him.

When Jesus says He is the life, how does this bring you hope for the future?

In John 11:25, Jesus says He is the life. This means that in Him there is hope of having new life and life forever. We do not have to remain spiritually dead and one day, we can live forever in eternity.

1. Romans 6:23: The payment for our sin is death. Our sin results in death.

JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

BIG IDEA #2: JESUS RAISES THE DEAD TO LIFE.²

[THIS]

John 11 presents the story of Jesus and three of His friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. In this story, Lazarus has died and Jesus raises Him to life again. This miracle of Jesus' reveals so much about Jesus' deity and the redemption that is found only in Him. It is more than a friend doing a wonderful thing for His friends. It is God revealing His redemption plan to the world through His miraculous resurrection of Lazarus from the dead. At first it seems that the miracle is only about the final resurrection of God's people, but it is about so much more than that. When Martha met Jesus outside of her house after her brother had already been dead in the tomb for several days, her confidence was in that final resurrection and the hope that she would see him again one day. Jesus' response to her shows that He had a bigger lesson to teach her and those listening. He was teaching about His ability to give spiritual life, to make spiritually dead people live. Jesus does more than call dead people from the grave. He gives life to them.

[THEREFORE]

Martha believed in eternal life in heaven, but she missed that Jesus gives new life for today. How are you tempted to be like Martha?

In John 3:3, Jesus likens saving faith in Him to being born again. It is as if we become completely new people. It is so life-altering that we are new creations. Romans 6:4 and Ephesians 4:22-24 help us understand this newness of life that we experience. It's more than just being rescued for a future life. It is easy to believe that because of our eternal life, this life doesn't matter, but that isn't true.

[THIS]

The hope we have in Jesus is that He makes us alive. This new life is more than eternal life or a forgiveness of sins. It is an amazing thing to be forgiven for our sins, to be relieved of a sin debt that we cannot pay, but saving faith is so much more than that. Our saving faith is a trust in Him that is daily and life-long. It is a personal relationship with Him that requires a faith and trust in Him. It results in new life that can only be found in connection to Him. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He taught this truth. New life is found in Him and only in Him. He makes dead things alive and gives new life. He breathes Himself into us and we are awakened to a new reality in Him. Without Him, we do not have this new truth. When Lazarus stepped out of the tomb, he stepped out different than when he entered. When Jesus calls us from spiritual death to spiritual life, we step out of our old life and leave behind our sinful selves. We step into a new life with Him that is connected to Him, the giver of all life.

[THEREFORE]

Why is life with Jesus tied to a relationship with Him?

Jesus is the source of all life. We must be connected to Him in order to have life. Without a connection to Him, we are dead. John 17:3 and 1 John 2:3 both remind us of this truth. Life is found in Christ alone.

What behaviors and attitudes in your life reveal that you have been raised to new life in Jesus?

Ephesians 4:22-24 tells us to put off the things of the flesh because we have been raised with Christ. When we receive new life, we put off the things of the flesh, or sinful behaviors and attitudes. This means that we should no longer be people who are known for fighting, quarreling, selfishness, or worldliness. Instead, we should be known for our godliness and holiness.

2. John 11:25: Jesus is the way in which dead people are raised to new life. He gives new life spiritually and physically.

JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

BIG IDEA #3: LIFE IN JESUS IS NOW AND FOREVER.³

[THIS]

In John 11, we get a glimpse of Jesus' humanity as He experiences the grief of His friends, Mary and Martha at the death of their brother, Lazarus. When He sees their grief, He, too, weeps. Jesus knows that in a short while Lazarus will live again, yet He still shares in their mourning. He alone understands what true life is and He knows that He is going to teach them about the abundant life they all can have in Him. Before He does so, He acknowledges the consequence of sin which is death. In order for us to fully appreciate the life that Jesus gives us now and forever, we must understand the consequence of our sin. Lazarus died because death is a part of life on earth. People die because death is a consequence of our sin against God. Jesus gives life to people. He called Lazarus from the tomb, giving him new life on earth in a miraculous way. He did this to show the people His deity and power to give life. He was revealing that He is God and has power over death and He was pointing them to the power He has over our sin. Because of His death on the cross, He defeated our sin and when we have saving faith in Him, we have spiritual life now on earth.

[THEREFORE]

How does understanding the consequence of sin help us really grasp the life that Jesus gives?

Romans 5:12 teaches us that sin and death entered the world through one man. When we understand that death is a product of our sin, we can grasp the life that Jesus gives. Revelation 21:4 helps us understand the new life that Jesus gives when we see that one day death will be no more. We will no longer feel its sting or sorrow.

[THIS]

One of the hardest things about death is the finality of it here on earth. Even as believers, we can't escape the pain of it, though for us, it is more of an absence than total separation. Our great hope is the resurrection. Because Jesus Himself raised to new life, when someone we love dies, we can still hope as long as they had saving faith in Him. This is our hope to see them again one day. When Jesus calls Himself the resurrection in John 11:25, He is teaching that because of Him, His people will be raised to new life one day. This future life is what we live for now in this world. As we live for Jesus presently, we do so, hoping in our eternal home with Him. When a fellow believer passes away, their soul lives on, passing from this world to their eternity. We know that though we are separated from them for a time, we will see them again in eternity when Christ returns. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the tomb, He pointed people to this truth. He gives new spiritual life, and He gives it now and forever.

[THEREFORE]

Why should we look forward to and live for our eternal life with Jesus?

Ephesians 1:18 shows us that our eternity holds greater riches for us than our current life. When He returns, we will be with Him forever and that will be more glorious than our greatest experience on this earth.

Death is part of life. How do believers mourn differently from unbelievers because of the life that Jesus gives now and forever?

Though death is part of this life, we do not mourn like those who don't have a hope of eternity with Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 4:13 teaches us that we do still mourn, but we don't do so hopelessly.

3. 1 John 2:25: God's promise to those who have saving faith is eternal life. Jesus gives life now and forever.