

EVERYONE IS ON ONE OF TWO PATHS: LIFE OR DEATH

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: I AM GROWING
SERIES: GOD IS THE WAY - I AM RUNNING THE RACE

BIG TRUTH: EVERYONE IS ON ONE OF TWO PATHS: LIFE OR DEATH

Psalm 18:30; Proverbs 3:5-6; 1 Peter 2:2; Luke 13:24

BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 7:14

"For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."

BIG IDEAS

- The path of life is a path of selflessness.
- The path of life is made clear in the pursuit of God's Word.
- The path of life is difficult and painful.

BIBLE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 7:12-14

TRANSFORM - I AM GROWING

The Transform Year is an exploration of what it means to become a "new creation" in Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:17) In order for this to happen, we must first find our identity in Him. Many of us live in a consistent state of identity crises. We wrestle with questions like who am I, where do I belong, why do I exist? The answer to these questions is found in Jesus. Our prayer for this semester is that like the Apostle Paul we would be able to say, "I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- God is the only way to life, hope, and peace.
- Everyone is on the path leading to life or the path leading to death.
- The path to life is hard and few find it, while the path to death is easy and many are on it.



Every student should feel...

- Fearful about the possibility of being on the road that leads to death.
- Encouraged that God's Word, people, and Spirit can help us run the race well.



Every student should strive to...

- Use the workouts consistently as a tool to help you study God's Word.
- Start using the ACTS model of daily prayer.



Every student should ask God to...

- Give them a desire to pursue the path of life and reject the path of death.
- Help them to take the next step in obediently following Him this week.

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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EVERYONE IS ON ONE OF TWO
PATHS: LIFE OR DEATH**BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 12:1**

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

Believers should give their whole lives to God.

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice..."

- When our hearts are transformed by the grace of God through Jesus Christ, our lives are changed. When we live daily in the truth that God has shown us a great mercy in saving us, we will respond in worship to Him. Our response of worship is to willingly sacrifice for Him. Jesus calls us to give up our worldly lives for Him. Paul teaches us in this verse that our worship is to willingly give up ourselves for the cause of Christ.
- When we live as sacrifices for God, we die to our own desires and ideas of how our lives should be. We begin to see that God's mercies are new every morning and desire to serve God in whatever capacity He has designed for us.

Believers are made spiritually alive through Christ.

"By the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God..."

- Our lives are transformed by Christ when we have saving faith. Our hearts are made new and we are no longer spiritually dead. In our newness of life, we live daily as living sacrifices to Christ. This means that we actively kill the old nature inside of us and submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit. This is an active and daily process that involves intentionally seeking to set aside ourselves for Christ. We will not seek our own will, but the will of God in everything that we do.

A believer's worship is tied to the offering of their lives to Him.

"Which is your spiritual worship."

- God values our obedience to Him more than a physical sacrifice. In order for us to walk in obedience to Him, we have to surrender ourselves. Not just part of ourselves, but all of ourselves. When we obey God and live as sacrifices to Him, we will live worshiping Him. It is our heart of our worship that will lead us to willingly die to ourselves daily for Him.

EVERYONE IS ON ONE OF TWO
PATHS: LIFE OR DEATH**BIG IDEA #1: THE PATH OF LIFE IS A PATH OF SELFLESSNESS.¹****[THIS]**

Scripture teaches that there are two paths in life and every person is on one of the two paths. One path leads to life and one leads to death. The path that leads to life is a selfless one. Jesus walked the narrow path, giving up His life for undeserving sinners. This path requires all who are on it to give up their own fleshly desires for Christ. The path of life requires selflessness and a willingness to set aside our plans and ideas for committed service to Christ. Jesus set the example of selflessness required to follow the narrow path.

[THEREFORE]

How does Jesus' example of selflessness lead you to live in the same way as He did?

Philippians 2:1-11 shows us the example that Jesus set for us. When we seek to live as selflessly as Jesus did, we will not live only to build up ourselves. We will live for others as Christ came and died for others. In John 3:26-30, we see John the Baptist living humbly for the sake of Christ. He lived to make much of Jesus and not of himself. He walked the path of life.

[THIS]

If we are to walk the path of life, we will have to become servants. Jesus came to serve others, not to be served. The path of life requires us to answer the call of servanthood. This means we focus on how to serve others instead of desiring to be served. We live as Jesus did, putting others' desires and needs above our own and dying to ourselves daily. It means giving up our own plans and schedules for the sake of Christ. This looks like living intentionally in every way that we might impact every person we encounter with the gospel in some way. It means not focusing on having our own time for ourselves, but instead giving each day to Christ to be used however He sees best.

[THEREFORE]

If Jesus came to serve, how can you live as a servant to be more like Him?

Mark 10:42-45 shows us that Jesus taught that those who would follow Him should seek to be servants rather than being served. Being on the path of life requires us to humble ourselves to be servants and not to lord our titles or positions over anyone. Being a servant requires us to die to ourselves and live without demanding our rights.

What hinders you from living a selfless life?

In Philippians 2:3-4, we see that living a selfless life means thinking of others before ourselves, but it also can be hindered by our lack of humility, our rivalry with others, and our love of self. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 shows us how easy it is to set our hope in the things of this world and that leads us to not live selflessly.

1. 1. Romans 12:1: We are called to sacrifice ourselves just as Christ sacrificed Himself.

EVERYONE IS ON ONE OF TWO
PATHS: LIFE OR DEATH**BIG IDEA #2: THE PATH OF LIFE IS MADE CLEAR IN THE PURSUIT OF GOD'S WORD.²****[THIS]**

God's Word reveals truth and gives wisdom for the Christian life. Jesus teaches in Matthew 7:12 that all those who want to follow Him will live according to His Word. Those who want to follow Jesus are on the path to life. In order to know the path and to follow it, we must know God's Word. God's Word is perfect and applies to every aspect of our lives here on earth. We will more fully understand the path of life as we grow in our knowledge of God's Word. It is the guide for our lives and points us to the path and guides us along the narrow road. God's Word teaches us how to live for Him. One example of this is that it will show us how to treat others. Jesus taught this truth in Matthew 7:12 when He taught that we should treat others how we want to be treated and we know the right way to be treated by knowing God's Word.

[THEREFORE]

Read Matthew 7:12. What does Jesus mean when he says to do for others as we would like them to do for us?

Proverbs 2:6 teaches us that God gives wisdom to His people. He gives His wisdom through His Word. As we pursue it, we will grow in His wisdom. Proverbs 3:5-6 teaches us that when we seek God's wisdom and we rely upon His Word, our path is made straight. It is through seeking His Word that we can walk the narrow path to life.

[THIS]

As we follow the path of life, we must pursue God's Word. Scripture teaches that those on the narrow path should seek God through His Word. When we seek God, we will better understand His commands and how to please Him. Without seeking His Word, we will not know how best to please Him. As we study His Word, we treasure His commands more and we cultivate a deeper understanding of their value. Growing in His Word means we read and study His Word, we learn His commands, and we apply them to our own lives. This pursuit makes the path of life clear to us. We do not have to live in darkness or even be confused about how to live for God because His Word makes His Way clear.

[THEREFORE]

How does pursuing God's Word make the path of life more clear for us to follow?

Psalm 119:105 teaches us that God's Word is a light that illuminates our path and makes the way to life clear. Luke 11:28 shows us that those who follow God's Word are blessed because they know how to please God.

What is a personal example of a time where God's Word helped you to navigate a difficult circumstance in your life?

Psalm 18:30 reminds us of the great value of God's Word. It is perfect as He is perfect. It is a shield to us as we take refuge in God during our time of need. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 reminds us that God's Word is valuable to our lives because it is the way we grow in Christ-likeness.

2. Romans 12:1: Christ died for us and therefore, we are to give up our lives for Him.

EVERYONE IS ON ONE OF TWO
PATHS: LIFE OR DEATH**BIG IDEA #3: THE PATH OF LIFE IS DIFFICULT AND PAINFUL.³****[THIS]**

Jesus teaches in Matthew 7:13-14 that the path to life is the harder path. The gate that leads to life is narrow and not easily entered. The path of life required the death of Christ and it requires our own death to our self. It requires our self-denial. The way to destruction is easy and many people are on that path. The path of life requires us to give up ourselves that we might live in Christ. Being on the path of life requires the supernatural work of God to draw sinners far from Him to Christ in salvation. Because we are sinful, we cannot save ourselves. The path of life is accessible only through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We cannot get on the path of life through our own abilities or our own perceived righteousness. We must humble ourselves and turn to Jesus for salvation.

[THEREFORE]

Read Matthew 7:13-14. Which path are you on and how do we find the path to life?

Psalm 16:11 shows us that it is God who makes known the path of life to us. John 14:6 teaches us that Jesus is the way to find life and we do not enter the narrow gate any other way. Romans 10:9-10 reminds us that we enter the path of life through our confession of sin and belief in Jesus as our Savior.

[THIS]

The path of life is a difficult path. Through the New Testament, Scripture teaches that following Jesus requires the death of our own desires and wills. Jesus teaches that those who follow Him will experience persecution, and they will face trials. The narrow path yields ridicule, isolation, and even death for some, but it is the only way to eternal life. The path of life is the only way to truly live. It is the only way to live a fully submitted life to Christ. Even when difficulties come, we can have joy because of the hope we have in Christ: the One who has gone before us and surrendered everything so that we may experience true life in Him.

[THEREFORE]

Why does Jesus say that path to life is narrow and hard?

In 2 Timothy 3:12, Jesus taught that those who would follow Him will be persecuted in this life. The world hated Jesus and it will hate His followers. John 15:18 teaches this very truth. The path of life is difficult because it brings ridicule and persecution to those who follow Christ.

What help and hope does it give you that Jesus died for you to be on the path of life and has already gone before you?

Matthew 5:10-12 offers hope because we know that God is aware of our suffering for His sake and there is a promised blessing to those who do suffer for Him. 2 Corinthians 12:10 offers encouragement in that we can have joy and find comfort in our suffering for His sake because it makes us more like Christ.

3. Romans 12: Christ calls us to be his ministers of reconciliation and to take the gospel to the world.