

JESUS - AMAZING?

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life"

(Suitable for use within a group over approximately one hour, or for an individual's personal Bible reading)

Thinking about life as a student in healthcare

1. Have you ever had a near death experience? Do you know someone, perhaps even someone you have met during your training, who has?
Has this near death experience changed your/their thoughts on death? If yes, how?
2. Have you ever been critically sick? Do you know someone who has?
Has this illness changed your/their thoughts on death? If yes, how?
3. Have you ever been with someone as they were dying?
If you feel comfortable, share your experiences with the group (what you thought at the time, how you felt, etc).

What does God have to say?

Read John 11:17-44.

It is too easy to read these words and miss the significance of them, especially if you have read them many times before.

With this in mind, pray together now as a group that God will reveal Himself to you through these words.

It is easy, in a sense, to go through life without thinking much about death.

We all know cognitively that we need to face it one day, and at times we may fear it (or the sickness that threatens it), but in general we carry on with our lives without giving death much thought.

At least this is common of us living in the West. Most of the world's population think about death every single day – because they face the real possibility of it every single day.

Not giving death much thought - is this a positive or negative thing for us? It's both.

It is a positive thing for us because it means that we aren't facing the possibility of death everyday, and of course life itself is a blessing. The temporary security and peace that we enjoy that preserves our lives is something we are so fortunate to have and places us as very rare people in the context of human history.

However there is a negative side to the fact that death is never on our radar – we rarely take the opportunity to think about what will happen to us after death.

This may not only disadvantage us in the long run (i.e. in eternity), but may also disadvantage us right now too. This is because the very thing that brings us life in the long run, is the same thing that brings us true life right now. Indeed, it is not a 'thing' at all, but a person – Jesus Christ.

Jesus declares that He is the resurrection and the life. These two concepts **don't exist without Jesus**. There is no resurrection, and there is no life without Him. This stands in stark contrast to the commonly held notions that life after death is about impersonal gains, living in a reality that provides material prosperity with little struggle.

1. How would your classmates define 'life'?
2. From your observations do you believe they have really found it (life)? Try and give objective reasoning.

Life, and most certainly a full life (John 10:10), is elusive until one has a relationship with Jesus.

3. Are you able to testify to this? If yes, please share with the group.
4. Do you feel secure knowing Jesus? How would you answer Jesus' question to Martha in verse 26?

Having life in Jesus is something that will never, ever end, and is something that can never, ever be taken away from you. Surely this is true freedom and true security.

5. How do these truths impact your willingness to take risks? Consider:
 - a. Risks to your own health that may arise depending on the context you practice in
 - b. Risks to your financial security when facing how to manage the money you will earn (How much do you save? How much will you give away?)
 - c. Risks to your perceived status as you face decisions about what work to do and where (Will you work in a busy city hospital or one no one has heard of? Will you work in public or private practice? Will you specialize or remain as a general practitioner?).
6. How do these truths impact your ability to be selfless instead of selfish? Can this have an overflow as to how you will practice post graduation?
7. Discuss together what life would be like for you if Jesus was not the resurrection and the life. What would you miss out on?
Do you think there would be another way to gain these things?

Jesus brings us true life, and resurrection from death (in both the spiritual and physical senses!). This would have been impossible without His death on the cross where He bore our guilt and shame as he experienced God's full wrath - which we deserve.

8. Spend some time in prayer together praising God for Jesus.

Bible Bites

(Suitable to be completed over approximately 20-25 minutes)

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life”

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What does God have to say?

Read John 11:17-27; 38-44:

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was less than two miles^[4] from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Christ,^[4] the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”...

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

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