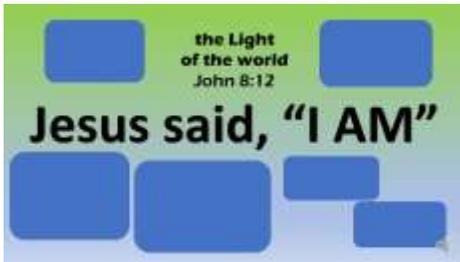


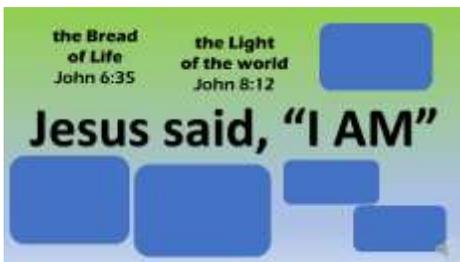
Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life



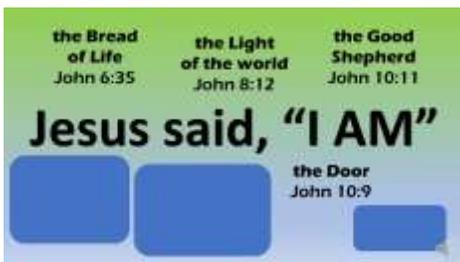
Hi Guys. Over the past couple months we have been on a quest to find out more about Jesus. And more specifically what Jesus said about himself.



Back in December we learned that Jesus called himself the “Light of the World.” We talked about how just came to earth and the light of the angels announced his coming and the light from the star of Bethlehem lead the wise men to find baby Jesus. But Jesus also is the light because in him there is no darkness.



The next month we learned that Jesus is the Bread of Life. He called himself that because people around him were seeking physical bread to feed themselves and Jesus used that time to let them know that physical bread would never satisfy them as well as Jesus could.



Last month we looked at two statements that kind of related to each other. Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd and the Sheep’s Gate. He leads his sheep to what they need and provides for them. He also protects them from dangers that could harm them.



Now a friend of Jesus named Lazarus was ill. He was from Bethany, where he lived with his sisters Mary and Martha.



So the two sisters sent a messenger to Jesus who was staying on the other side of the River Jordan.

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‘Lord, Lazarus is very ill,’ the messenger told Jesus.



On hearing this news Jesus said, ‘This illness will not end in death. It is for God’s glory so that God’s son may be glorified through it.’



Now although Jesus loved Lazarus, Mary and Martha, He did not go immediately to see them. Instead He stayed where He was for another two days. Then He announced, “Let’s go back to Judea.”



“But Teacher,” they protested. “A short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you. And yet you want to go back there?”



‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to wake him up,’ Jesus announced. His disciples replied. ‘Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better,’ Jesus had been speaking of the death of Lazarus, but His disciples thought he meant natural sleep.



SO Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. I am glad I was not there for your sake so that you might believe. Let’s go to him.”

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Then Thomas said to the rest of the disciples. "Let's go with Jesus that we may die with Him."



So they set off on the trip to Bethany where Lazarus lived.



Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days when Jesus arrived and His disciples arrived on the outskirts of Bethany.



Mourners had arrived from all around, when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him, but Mary stayed at home.



'Lord,' Martha exclaimed, "if you had been here my brother would not have died."



But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.'

Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life



Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.’ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.’



Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even though they die. And whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”



Yes Lord, she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” She then returned to fetch her sister Mary saying, “The teacher is here,’ and is asking for you.”



When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the mourners noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to visit them.



When Mary reached Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”



When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping. He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” He asked, “Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

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Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not He opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”



Jesus still deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,’ he said.



‘But Lord,’ Martha protested. ‘Lazarus has been in the tomb for four days and there will be a bad odor’



Jesus replied, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”



So they took the stone away

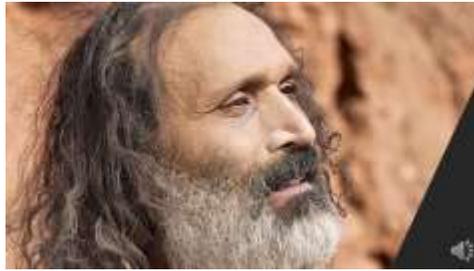


The Jesus looked up and prayed, “father, I thank you that you have heard me. I say this for the benefit of the people here so they may believe that you sent me,’ then Jesus called in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus come out!’

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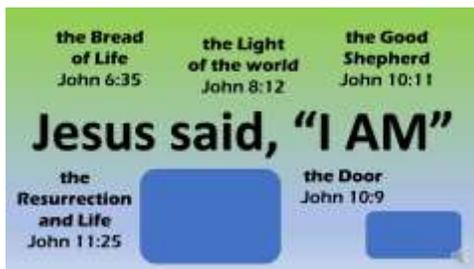
The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face.



Jesus said to them ‘take off the grave clothes and let Lazarus go.’



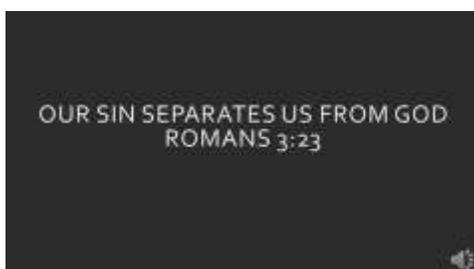
Then many people who had come to visit Mary and Martha saw what Jesus did and they believed in Him.



In today's lesson we learned that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. In John 11:25 it goes on to say that whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies. How incredible is that? If we believe in Christ we can live eternally even though our earthly body will die one day.



You see God loves us so much and wants us to live with him. It says in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal live.”



But there is a problem. We all sin. Sin is anything that we do that doesn't please God. And even what may seem like the smallest sin, creates a wall between us and God. God can't be around sin at all. It says in Romans 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” And we can't do enough good to make up for the sin that we do.

Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life



CHRIST DIED ON THE CROSS AS
THE ONLY PAYMENT FOR OUR SIN.



ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND
THE FREE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE.
ROMANS 10:9-10



GROW CLOSER TO CHRIST
EVERYDAY.



Will you believe
in Jesus?

The price for our sin was a perfect sacrifice, that we could not do ourselves. So God sent Jesus to die on the cross as the payment for our sin. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Jesus paid the price for our sin.

So what do we need to do? As with any gift we need accept God's forgiveness and the free gift of eternal life. Romans 10:9-10 says, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

What happens next? Talk to God. Confess your sins to Him and let Him know that you believe in Jesus and that he died on the cross to save you from your sins. Then make Jesus the most important relationship you have. Get to know him better by reading your Bible and going to church, talk to him in prayer and worship Him by lifting up his name in song and by serving others in His name.

Will you believe in Jesus? The choice is yours. I made that decision years ago and have never regretted it.

Digging In Questions

Choose the best answer

1. True or False Jesus had a good friend named Lazarus.
2. True or False Jesus got word that Lazarus was sick and he immediately went to see if he could help.
3. True or False When Jesus found Mary and Martha, they were upset because Lazarus has already died.
4. True or False Jesus called himself the resurrection and the Life.
5. True or False Jesus went into the tomb and told Lazarus to Wake Up.

Things to think about

Jesus called himself the Resurrection and the Life. Every person will die when their lives are over, but through Jesus, we have a way to live forever and rise again from the dead. Because of sin, we are separated from God and there is no amount of good things we can do that will pay the price needed for our sins.

BUT God sent Jesus to come to earth and live a sinless life. He died on the cross to pay the price for our sins. And after three days Jesus rose from the grave. If we believe in Christ and what he did for us we can have eternal life with God in heaven.

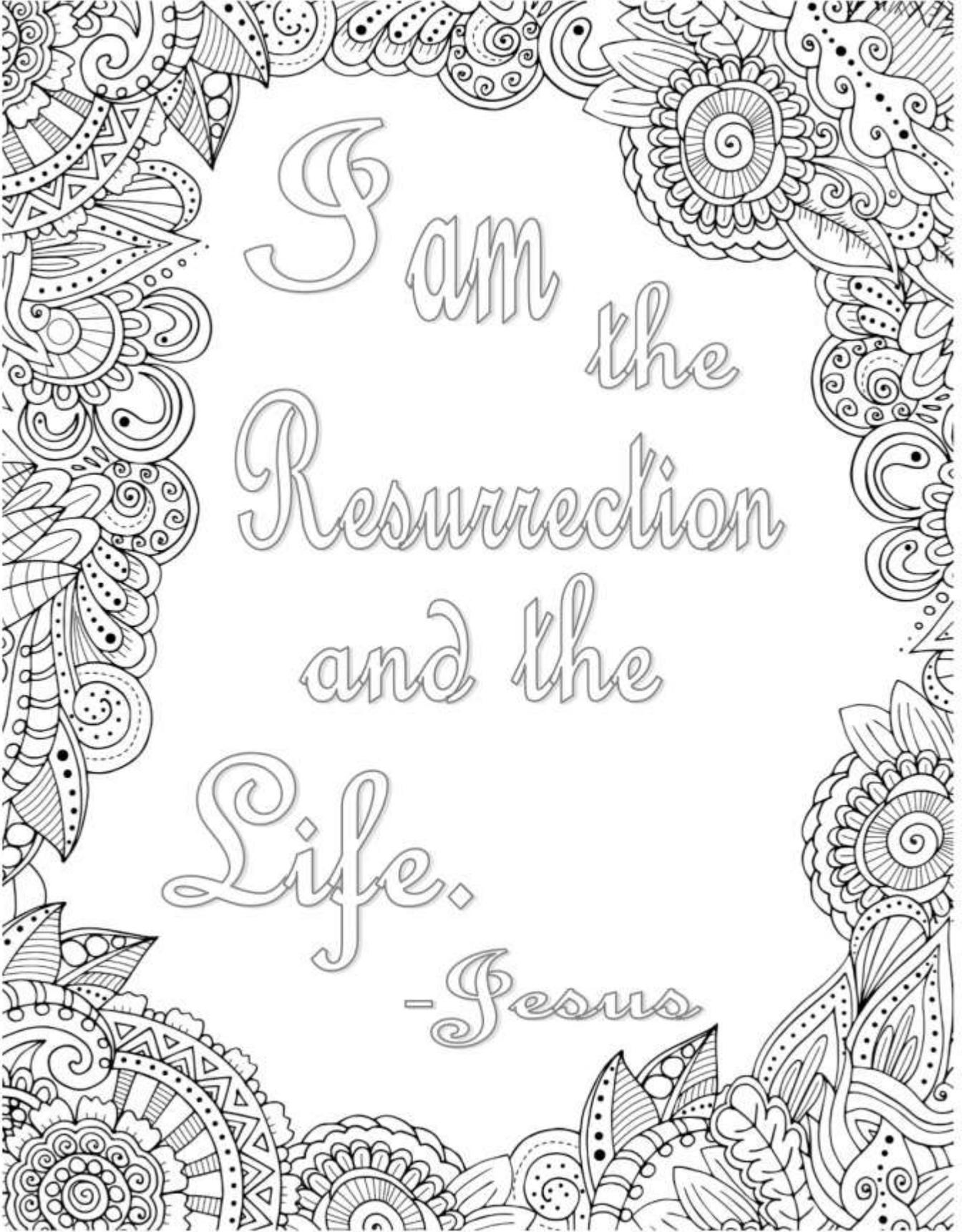
What do you believe?

Have you decided to follow Jesus?

You can do that today. Let God know that you are sorry for your sins and that you believe Jesus died on the cross to pay for them. And let God know that you want to make Jesus the most important part of your life.

Answers to the Questions:

1. True 2. False 3. True 4. True 5. False



I am the
Resurrection
and the
Life.
- Jesus