

That They May Have Life: A Bible Study

John 10:10

Jesus said, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). Giving life is the sole purpose for which He became man and lived, suffered, died, and rose again. But what exactly does Jesus mean, and how should this influence our efforts to save and defend lives?

To fully understand the life that Jesus grants to us, it is helpful to remember God’s original plan for man when He first gave life to Adam and Eve. **Read Genesis 1:26-27 and 2:7.** How did Adam differ from the other living creatures? What did it mean for Adam to have life?

On the reverse side, it is also helpful to remember what Adam and Eve lost the day they fell into sin. **Read Genesis 3:7-24 along with 2 Thessalonians 1:9.** What happened when Adam and Eve ate of that fruit? Did their physical lives immediately end? In what way did their lives end?

Sadly, the curse of death brought about by our first parents hasn’t been limited just to Adam and Eve. **Read Romans 5:12.** Who else has been affected by the curse of sin and death?

Read Matthew 4:23-24 and Romans 8:18-23. How have sin and death affected our physical, or earthly, lives?

Read Ephesians 2:1-3. How has the curse of sin and death affected our spiritual lives?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 and 1 Thessalonians 4:14. In what way does Jesus give us physical life?



Read Romans 5:8-11 and Titus 3:4-7. In what ways has Jesus provided for our spiritual lives?

Jesus has come to grant life. Through His own death and resurrection, He gives not only unending physical life, but physical life with God forevermore. **Read Acts 2:38-39 and 1 John 2:2.** Whom does Jesus intend to have this life?

The life that Jesus gives is true life, not mere physical existence as the animals have. Living in communion with God means receiving all that a person needs and more. **Read Romans 8:31-39, Philippians 4:4-13, and Ephesians 4:24-32.** What does living in communion with God look like?

How does this compare to the way the world thinks about life? In what ways might the world define an “abundant life”?

How might that worldly understanding of an abundant life lead to life issues such as abortion, sexual immorality, suicide, or assisted suicide?

Knowing that Christ has come to give life—that is, a life lived eternally in God, receiving all good from Him—will certainly shape our For Life message. **Read Matthew 25:31 and Matthew 28:19-20.** In what ways does Jesus call us to care for our neighbors? How does this shape our understanding of being *For Life*?

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Jesus said, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). Giving life is the sole purpose for which He became man and lived, suffered, died, and rose again. But what exactly does Jesus mean, and how should this influence our efforts to save and defend lives?

To fully understand the life that Jesus grants to us, it is helpful to remember God’s original plan for man when He first gave life to Adam and Eve. **Read Genesis 1:26-27 and 2:7.** How did Adam differ from the other living creatures? What did it mean for Adam to have life?

Adam was made in the image of God with both a body and a soul. Adam’s life was not merely biological like the animals (with the ability to breathe, metabolize, grow, etc.). Adam’s life was defined by his being a living soul. He had biological life, but he also had a soul that was in communion with God, who made him.

On the reverse side, it is also helpful to remember what Adam and Eve lost the day they fell into sin. **Read Genesis 3:7-24 along with 2 Thessalonians 1:9.** What happened when Adam and Eve ate of that fruit? Did their physical lives immediately end? In what way did their lives end?

Sin corrupted both their bodies and their souls. Their physical lives did not immediately end; however, physical death did begin to take hold of them. They were also driven away from the presence of the Lord and His goodness, indicating their spiritual death.

Sadly, the curse of death brought about by our first parents hasn’t been limited just to Adam and Eve. **Read Romans 5:12.** Who else has been affected by the curse of sin and death?

Every person ever conceived in the natural way (that is, every person except Jesus) has inherited this curse of sin and death.

Read Matthew 4:23-24 and Romans 8:18-23. How have sin and death affected our physical, or earthly, lives?

We are all conceived as sinners, with bodies susceptible to disease, death, and decay.

Read Ephesians 2:1-3. How has the curse of sin and death affected our spiritual lives?

We are born as enemies of God with souls that are dead in relation to God. Without God's help, we would all be destined to face physical death in this life and eternal separation from God.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 and 1 Thessalonians 4:14. In what way does Jesus give us physical life?

By His own death and resurrection from the dead, Jesus has atoned for the sin of the whole world and defeated death. On the Last Day, when Christ returns, every person will be raised from the dead. The believers in Christ will be raised with bodies that are incorruptible and free from the curse of sin.

Read Romans 5:8-11 and Titus 3:4-7. In what ways has Jesus provided for our spiritual lives?

By His atoning sacrifice, Jesus has reconciled us to God. Through Baptism and faith in Christ, we are raised from spiritual death to spiritual life, and we become children of God and heirs of His kingdom. Therefore, at the resurrection of the dead on the Last Day, those who believe in Christ will be raised to live with God, in bliss, forevermore.

Jesus has come to grant life. Through His own death and resurrection, He gives not only unending physical life, but physical life with God forevermore. **Read Acts 2:38-39 and 1 John 2:2.** Whom does Jesus intend to have this life?

Jesus sends out the apostles and charges His Church to invite all people to have life in Him.

The life that Jesus gives is true life, not mere physical existence as the animals have. Living in communion with God means receiving all that a person needs and more. **Read Romans 8:31-39, Philippians 4:4-13, and Ephesians 4:24-32.** What does living in communion with God look like?

Even now, life in Christ is a life of peace, joy, and contentment, knowing that we have been reconciled to God and that He promises to provide for our every need and that God will even use pain and suffering to lead us to everlasting glory. As we are freed from the anxieties of this life, we can turn our attention to our neighbors, loving them all in imitation of Christ.

How does this compare to the way the world thinks about life? In what ways might the world define an “abundant life”?

Many people would understand “having life” merely in a biological sense: breathing, thinking, feeling, etc. Likewise, many would assume that having an abundant life means living with an abundance of material goods: friends, money, possessions, and the like.

How might that worldly understanding of an abundant life lead to life issues such as abortion, sexual immorality, suicide, or assisted suicide?

Those who are spiritually dead and alienated from God and who look for peace and joy in the things of this world are often tempted to see other people as either a means to their own happiness or obstacles which stand in the way. The search for pleasure can also lead to placing a higher value on ourselves—or on money and possessions—than we place on our neighbors.

Knowing that Christ has come to give life—that is, a life lived eternally in God, receiving all good from Him—will certainly shape our For Life message. **Read Matthew 25:31 and Matthew 28:19-20.** In what ways does Jesus call us to care for our neighbors? How does this shape our understanding of being *For Life*?

We are certainly to care for the physical lives of our neighbors. Jesus died that each person might be delivered from the curse of death. Therefore we defend our neighbors and speak out against any sinful act that would prematurely end the physical life of our neighbor.

However, we cannot stop with that. Jesus gave His life so that all might live in Him. Therefore, our aim is not merely to save the physical lives of our neighbors but to have them hear the Gospel of Jesus, receive the forgiveness of their sins, and live with us eternally in God’s kingdom.

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