



Week 1
Come Alive!

The Opening Question

Everyone in the group (if the group is large maybe take volunteers or instead to a hand-raise poll) answer this question and tell why you answered it that way: Do you have a green thumb (plants love me), greenish thumb (I'm okay at keeping some plants alive), or a black thumb (plants at the nursery wish they could run away when they see me coming).

Watch the Video Clip

Key Teaching Points

Because of Christ, I am not now what I used to be. And I am not now what I will be.

Everything we do together as the church is an exercise in us BECOMING everything God purposed us to be.

The most important thing you will ever do on this earth is COME ALIVE IN CHRIST!

NEXT STEP: Step out of your grave!

Scripture

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:10, NLT)

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:1-10, NLT)

Romans 6:1-13 (NLT)

John 3:1-8, 16-21 (NLT)

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (John 6:35, ESV)

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4, ESV)

Discussion Questions

What was your biggest takeaway from today's teaching?

Who would like to share your story of coming alive in Christ?

Name 3 things you no longer do because of Jesus.

Name 3 things that are different about you since you met Jesus.

Bill spent some time talking about how Jesus referred to the movement of God's Spirit like the wind. Why do you think Jesus needed to tell that to Nicodemus? Is it important for us to tell this to others? Why or why not?

Billy Graham believed that 50% of church members actually aren't true Christians? Why do you think he felt that way? What is the difference between someone who calls themselves a Christian and someone who is truly alive in Christ? Be ready to have some healthy debate on this one. A lot of folks have some interesting ideas on what are the true indications and traits of a Christian.

Who in your life are you hoping to see "come alive" in Christ?

Rhetorical question: have you been born again?

Pray

As you lead your group in prayer, it may be appropriate for you to coach people to place their faith in Christ during the prayer. If Billy Graham is correct, there's a strong chance there is someone in your group who is NOT born again. So be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit to possibly use you to guide folks to surrender their lives to Jesus as you pray. Also, take time in your prayer to thank God for sending His Son so that we can have life eternal and abundant. And pray for those that were mentioned that we are hoping to see "come alive" in Christ. And if you dare, pray for God to use the people in your group to be the ones to help those folks BECOME born again!