

Life Group Lesson - Week of July 23

There are few things more heart-warming than to see loving families reunited after being apart—to see a soldier return home after a tour of duty and an emotional family embrace, or to witness a couple on the brink of separation find strength to love again and forgive. Sadly, there is nothing more painful to see than for families to be separated by divorce, sharp disagreements, greed, pride, or infidelity.

In the beginning God enjoyed fellowship with His children. But instead of trusting God, Adam and Eve believed the lie of a serpent and separated themselves from their Father. From that point forward all of creation was cursed resulting in pain and suffering still felt today. Yet, God in His mercy has not abandoned His creation. Through His Son, our heavenly Father has made a way for reunion and restoration.

Read Romans 8:9-30

The apostle Paul says that for the person who has professed faith in the Lord Jesus “Christ lives in you... The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you!” Though one day your earthly body will expire, as a believer in Christ, you have this glorious hope: “Just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you” (vv10a, 11). And it is through the Holy Spirit we have the power to “put to death” daily our sinful nature.

1. Sin cannot reign where the Spirit resides. We may be reluctant to fully surrender to Christ’s Spirit within us, but sin leads to death. In your own experience, how have you found sin’s path to be a way of destruction?

The same Spirit that raised Jesus, raises believers from death to life daily. Every day the Lord’s mercies are new and fresh (Lamentations 3:23) and we have access to the life-giving power of Christ to rise above the pull of flesh, this world, and Satan. Paul says: “The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure” (1 Corinthians 10:13). We must stay near Christ and constantly press into His Spirit.

2. In what ways do you consciously do your part to stay near Christ throughout the day? What does James 4:7-10 say about remaining close to the Lord?

We are not all children of God by earthly birth, but we become children of God through spiritual birth. Jesus came into this world and many rejected Him. But all who did believe and accept Him, “He gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God (John 1:10-13). Paul says “that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to Him at all” (Romans 8:9b).

3. Read Jesus’ words in John 3:5-8. Being “born again” does not have to be difficult. Like a little child we simply invite Jesus into our hearts and trust Him to do what He has already promised—forgive our sin, wash us clean, and set us on a new path! Have you asked the Lord to do this? If not, pray now:

Lord Jesus, although I don’t understand everything about salvation, I ask you to come into my heart. I welcome you to lead my life. Please forgive me of my sin. Wash me clean. You know my weakness, so would you fill me with your Holy Spirit? Fill me with your love. Thank you for loving me. I love you, Lord. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Sin’s curse is now broken. All creation yearns for the Lord to make all things new, and one day we will join with all of heaven and praise our Lord together! “Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into His glorious presence without a single fault” (Jude v24).

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Text: Romans 8:9-25

Plain Truth:

In the Holy Spirit we are _____ into God's family, _____ to life daily, and the curse of sin is _____ in this life and eternally.

- 1) Sin cannot _____ where the Spirit _____.
- 2) The Holy Spirit which raised Jesus, _____ us from _____ to life daily.
- 3) We are not all _____ by _____ birth, but we become _____ of God by _____ birth.
 - a) We must be _____.
 - b) God's _____ of us means we are family.
- 4) God's children and Creation yearns for sin's curse to be _____ so we can share in God's _____ Glory.
 - a) The curse began in a _____.
 - b) The curse was broken in a _____.
 - c) The curse was crushed in a _____.



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