



Resurrection and Eternal Life

OBJECTIVE

To help groups understand and experience God's promise to live with them in the present and to raise them from the grave on the last day.

FOCUS THIS WEEK

Jesus promises you eternal life. He said he is preparing a place for you and you need not fear death. So, what does this mean? It's so easy to feel lost and alone. Don't let anyone leave this session without being confronted by this truth: God promises to live with you in the present and to raise you from death to everlasting life. Will you trust in this promise?

FAITH5 SMALL GROUP TIME



SHARE highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion. Pair group members up one-on-one to share the best and worst things that happened this week. After a short while, return to small group and invite each person to share their partner's highs and lows. Encourage youth to write their personal highs and lows, those of their partner, and a short prayer on their FAITH5 Small Group Time Handout.



READ and highlight the theme verse, Romans 14:8, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, in your Bibles and circle key words. A musical version of this Scripture verse can be found at www.faithink.com, FINKlink AC10.



TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

B. CATECHISM ENCOUNTER

Find Luther's explanation for the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed in your Small Catechism. What does Luther say Christ will do on the last day? Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers.

C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Have you experienced the death of someone close to you? A relative? A friend? A pet? Write/talk about your experience: Affirm all thoughtful answers.

2. What do you believe happens after you die? On what do you base that belief? A deep question. Affirm all thoughtful answers.

3. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to you? Why is it important? Without the resurrection Jesus would only be like all the other prophets and martyrs. Only God has the power over life and death. It is through the resurrection—the conquering of death—that Christ is victorious. We are shown that death is not the end, but that through death we receive eternal life.

4. How do you know Christ's promise of eternal life is true? Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers. God sealed this promise with the blood and resurrection of Jesus.

D. QUOTATIONS Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

E. TERMS OF THE WEEK Review these key terms and write definitions.

Death: Act of dying or condition of being dead.

Eternal Life: Life with God for all who die trusting in Christ.

Eternity: Endless life after death.

Promise: Indication of something forthcoming; the promise of the resurrection or eternal life. Covenant or agreement.

Resurrection: The transformation from death into eternal life.

F. GROUP BUSINESS

1. Servant Event Idea: In the midst of death and grief, it is important to be with those who can support and grieve with you. Following many funerals, churches often provide or host a meal where family members and friends can gather. Arrange for your small group to help serve and clean up at one such gathering. It is a service not only to the church, but to the family. Later, gather to eat together and talk about the experience.

2. FAITH5 Home Huddle: Encourage youth to take a few minutes for FAITH5 with their families each night at home, using the FAITH5 Journals or the Home Huddle Handout.

G. WRAP UP Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



PRAY for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Toss a newspaper into the center of the group or invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer. **Tip:** Gather in a circle. Hold hands, lock arms or go shoulder-to-shoulder to bond your group!



BLESS one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. As for their blessing as well!