

Living a Raised Life Sermon Discussion Leader's Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To examine the narrative we believe about our lives and to practice seeing ourselves now as we will be in our resurrections.

Icebreaker: What "useless talent" do you have—something random that you're good at but that doesn't have any practical value?

Discussion:

Transition: Heinrich Rudolf Hertz discovered radio waves. And at the time, he believed this was a useless discovery. He couldn't imagine the implications radio waves would have on the world.

In the same way, it's easy to miss the implications of the miracles we read about in Acts 9.

Read:

Acts 9:32-34

As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord's people who lived in Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years.

³⁴ "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up.

Acts 9:40-41

⁴⁰ Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet.

1. What do these two miracles have in common? In what way are both Aeneas and Tabitha like Jesus?

2. This repetition is meant to catch readers' attention. How might these miracles be relevant for Christians today? What overlap is there between what happened to Aeneas, Tabitha, (and Jesus), and what happens to follower of Jesus?

Transition: For Christians, resurrection is both a future promise and a present reality.

1 Corinthians 6:14

By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.

Romans 6:4

Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Ephesians 2:6

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.

3. If resurrection is both a future promise and a present reality, what is being promised in the future? (1 Cor. 6:14)
4. How have we *already* experienced resurrection as a present reality? What is different about us as Christians right now? (Rom. 6:4; Eph. 2:6)

Transition: We are always living out some identity and narrative for our lives. The question is which identity and narrative we choose to let shape us.

In Philippians 3:19, Paul describes those who "live as enemies of the cross" this way: *Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.*

5. What does the world say is valuable and important? How does this differ from what the Bible tells us is valuable and important?

THE **crossing** **small groups**

6. In what way do you see yourself living according to the world's narrative of what's valuable and important? How does that narrative affect your desires and actions?

Transition: God sees you now as you will be. This means he looks at you and sees your glorified self. Christ's resurrection is already yours. You are a holy one.

7. How would your relationship with God be different if you knew that he saw you *now* as you *will be* in your resurrection?

8. How would your life be different if you saw **yourself** *now* as you *will be* then?

Sharing and Prayer:

Have each person share their answer to the following questions with the group.

- What is one thing that prevents you from seeing yourself now as you will be in your resurrection?
- What would you like prayer for in order to help you see yourself as God sees you?

After each person shares, ask a member of the group to pray for them.

Once everyone has shared and been prayed for, close your time together by praying that your group would see themselves as glorified, resurrected saints. Ask God to help you "get up".