



I AM

Week 1: Alive in Christ

What we want students to learn: Because “I am” is in me, I am ALIVE.

What we want students to do with what they’ve learned: Understand that salvation changes more than our destination and live like we are truly changed and alive in Christ.

Large Group Message Focus: Ephesians 2:1-7, Romans 8:9-11

Scripture Focus: Ephesians 2:1-7 and Galatians 2:20

The Main Point

There are far too many believers who have changed their mind about their eternity, but they have not changed their mind about their current identity. As Christ followers, salvation does not just change our destination, but our identity as we are headed towards our destination. So, who are we in light of this salvation? Well, Jesus did not just go to the cross for us, but as us. So, that means there are several aspects of Jesus’ identity that have now become our identity in Him.

INTRODUCTION

We live in an impressive technological age. Everything we want we can have, basically. A huge breakthrough was the iPhone and it has changed our world dramatically. Before the iPhone, cell phones were two pieces. It would flip open and all you had were numbers, buttons and a small screen. Texting was basically non-existent because it was so hard. Before this type of cell phone, the phones were basically a brick with an antenna attached.

- **Compare the old phones to phones like an iPhone. They were ____ but now they are ____.**

Have them fill in the blank with two words. What we are getting at is that the phones were terrible before but now they are awesome. This is a good to great change. We were able to call people which was good but now we are able to do so many other things which is great. No matter how drastic this good to great change was it will never equate to a death to life change. A death to life change is so much better than a good to great and that is why God is only capable of doing those.

PRAY that the students will be able to see the difference between a good to great change and a death to life change.

LESSON

This first question is like a pre-test, if you will. We are going to see how they describe it and throughout the group guide give them another view on it.

- **What does going from death to life look like? How would you describe it?**

Read Ephesians 2:1-3 and answer the following question.

- **How would you summarize these verses?**
 - *Paul is describing our old self, before Christ, in great detail and not making light of the fact that we used to do wrong. When we went with what the world told us to do, we never really thought twice about it because we had no reason to. We only wanted to do what felt good to us and what felt good was almost always the wrong thing to do.*

Read Ephesians 2:4-5 and ask the following questions.

- **What in these verses gets you excited?**
 - Example: Ask them to define mercy. Mercy is not getting what we deserve. We deserve death and separation from him, but because he is so merciful, He withholds that from us and gives another chance.

Read Ephesians 2:6-7 and Galatians 2:20.

- **How many of you like working FOR somebody? Why or why not?**
 - Most of us would say that working for somebody isn't all that fun. It might be nice when we like the person we work for, but overall being able to work with somebody instead of for somebody is a lot better.
- **Finish the sentence: "And God raised us up ____ Christ and seated us ____ him..." -Ephesians 2:6.**
 - "And God raised us up WITH Christ and seated us WITH him..." Everything is with God and not for God. He doesn't need us to do anything for Him. All He created us for was to be WITH Him and have a relationship with Him. It is a beautiful thing to think about how God doesn't want anything from us or do anything for Him, but just be with Him.

Re-read Ephesians 2:1-7 if needed and ask the following questions.

- **In Ephesians 2:1-7, does Paul give the people of Ephesus a set of rules to live by?**
 - Sure doesn't! He doesn't give them checklists and performance to live by as they are a new Christian. Death to life does not equate to good to great. Death to life means going from not having any contact with God at all to being raised up with Christ and seated with him in heaven (v.6). This is what it means to be raised again through Jesus.

LIFE APPLICATION

These are questions that will have the students reflect on how their life has been/will be different as they are Christians.

- **Does making the same decisions you used to make before you were a Christian feel different when you make them as a Christian? Give an example.**
 - *They should feel different because you are now sensitized to what God wants you to do. When you make those same sinful decisions that you used to make, there is a voice/feeling that makes whatever you did seem so repulsive and awful that it makes you wonder why you used to do that in the first place.*
 - *Leaders, if you want to give them an example on this question, that would help them connect to you better and will make them more likely to share after you have shared.*
- **How did your perception of going from death to life change?**

TAKE IT OUT

Close small group out with prayer requests. Pray specifically for the group, that they would walk in the new identity they received with Christ.

After prayer, be sure to remind them of any upcoming group serving activities or student events and THE WEEKEND!