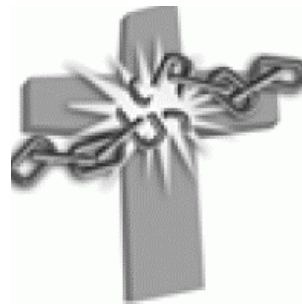


What Jesus Came To Do



* Restore Spiritual Life

The only possible answer to our predicament was to restore our relationship with God, to reconnect our spirit to God's Spirit so that we could become spiritually alive again.

*"In the beginning was the Word... In him was **life**, and that **life** was the light of men" (John 1:1-4)*

*"I have come that they may have **life**, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).*

*"I am the resurrection and the **life**. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies" (John 11:25)*

What Adam lost was **life**. What Jesus came to give us was **life**.

* Restore Significance, Security And Acceptance

Did you think that eternal life is something that you get when you die? It's much more than that - A different quality of **life** right now as well as **life** for evermore.

"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son does not have life" (1 John 5:12).

Now our needs to establish an identity, to be accepted, secure and significant can be fully met in Christ.

See the 'Significance, Security & Acceptance Restored In Christ' list

Notes _____

In The Coming Week

Read the "Significance, Security & Acceptance Restored In Christ" list out loud every day. Then pick one of the truths that is particularly relevant to you and spend some time reading it in its context and asking God to help you understand it more fully.

Big Question (to consider before the next session)

Imagine you are talking to a not-yet Christian. Can you summarise the gospel message in a few sentences? (There will be opportunity to share your summary at the next L.I.F.E. Focus Group)



Introduction

Jesus said that we will know the truth and the truth will set us free! (John 8:32) In the first three sessions we look at some of the **key truths** we need to know about what it means to be a Christian.

Notes _____

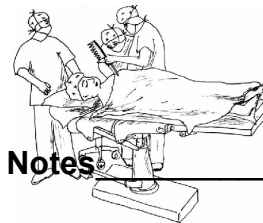
SESSION 1: Where Did I Come From?

Focus verse:

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:12)

Focus truth:

Before we became Christians, we were driven by the need to be accepted, secure and significant. Now, in Christ, we are spiritually alive children of God who are accepted, secure and significant.



Who Are You Really?

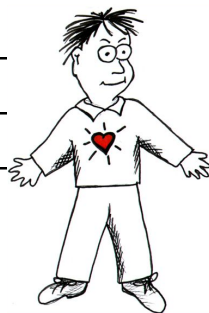
What makes up the real "me"?
Is it my body? Is it what I have? Is it what I do?

Notes _____

2 You Are Created In The Image Of God (Genesis 1:26)

God is Spirit and we too have a spiritual nature, an inner person (or soul/ spirit). It is not our outer person (our body) that is created in the image of God; it's our inner person that has the capacity to think, feel and choose.

Notes _____



How We Were Designed To Be

Physically Alive

The _____ / _____ connected to the _____

Spiritually Alive

The _____ / _____ connected to _____

Being spiritually alive and connected to God meant that Adam and Eve possessed a number of very important qualities of life:

Life As God Originally Intended

S _____ A God-given _____

S _____ All needs _____ for

A _____ Sense of _____ & _____
to God and others

That's how God created you to be.

Notes _____



The Consequence Of The Fall

* Spiritual Death

The effects of Adam and Eve's sin can be summed up by one word: "death". Some of the effects of this spiritual death for them (and consequently for us) were:

* Lost the knowledge of God

"They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts" (Ephesians 4:18). See also 1 Corinthians 2:14

" _____ " was no longer about _____

Notes _____

* Negative emotions

Fearful and anxious need for a sense of _____

Guilty and ashamed need for a sense of _____

Rejected need for _____

Weak and powerless need for _____ & _____

Depressed and angry

Trying To Go Back To How It Was Meant To Be

* The Best The World Can Offer Does Not Work

The world offers us a number of false equations which it promises will recover what Adam and Eve lost:

Performance + Accomplishments = Significance

Status + Recognition = Security

Appearance + Admiration = Acceptance

"Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." (Ecclesiastes 1:2)

* Obeying Rules Does Not Work

God gave the Law to His people but it was powerless to restore the life that Adam and Eve lost. It was intended to make us aware of the utter hopelessness of our situation and point us to Christ, the ultimate sacrifice for sin. See Galatians 3:24

Notes _____
