

Jesus "I AM"

Week 7 – The Resurrection and the Life

Ready (*Plant the seed*)

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die! Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

Set (*Get the conversation started*)

When we study scripture, it is super important to read beyond the verse to help us understand exactly what God is trying to tell us. We find this "I am" statement in the story of Lazarus. Jesus had just gotten word that from Mary and Martha that their brother, his friend Lazarus, was very ill. Jesus waited two days before going to them after Lazarus had passed. When he arrived, Martha was upset and said, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died." (John 11:21). But Jesus reminds her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die! Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26). Death is an uncomfortable thing to talk about. What about death makes us so very sad? It is the separation we feel from the person who has passed away. Sin is like death in that it separates us from God. God loves us and doesn't want to be separated from us. Romans 6:23 tells us, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." What we earn from sin is a spiritual death that separates us from God. But Jesus came that we may have life through Him. John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved the world that he sent his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." When Jesus calls Lazarus out of the cave and resurrects his earthly body, he is showing us that, through Him, is life. His death on the cross and resurrection covered our sin and gives us spiritual life that surpasses a physical death.

How does this message help you as an athlete on the court this season? It is important to know that it is through God's grace that you receive the gift of salvation through Jesus. Showing grace to others honors what Jesus did for you. On the court, giving grace to yourself when you mess up and showing grace to your teammates by supporting them even when they have a bad game. Being humble in your victory and gracious in defeat will show others that you are a good steward of the salvation and life that Jesus has given you so freely.

Grow (*Take it away*)+

-Death is a difficult thing to talk about. Do you find comfort in knowing that there is life through Jesus beyond the physical death? (*Be sensitive to this topic with younger players who may not fully grasp the concept.*)

- Do you understand what that means?

- How can you be a good steward of the salvation that Jesus has offered you?

Pray

God we love you and are so loved by you. Thank you for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sins so that we may be with you forever. Please help us to be good stewards of this life in the way we offer grace to others. It is in Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

Overtime (*Optional Reinforcement Activity*) Resurrection Game

Materials: None

Directions: Players sit in a circle with a detective standing in the middle. Before the game starts, secretly select a "resurrector." The resurrector will wink at players discretely to resurrect them. If a player is winked at, he stands. The goal of the game is for the detective to figure out who the resurrector is before all of the players have stood up.

Give Directions & Play a quick round

To start, explain the game, have the players all sit with eyes closed then tap the resurrector on the head. Then have everyone open their eyes and begin game.