

DAY 1 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER (“SOAP”)

CONVERSATION STARTER

If attitudes were seeds, what are you committed to planting?

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

But someone may ask, “How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?” What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn’t grow into a plant unless it dies first. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting. Then God gives it the new body he wants it to have. A different plant grows from each kind of seed. Similarly there are different kinds of flesh—one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

There are also bodies in the heavens and bodies on the earth. The glory of the heavenly bodies is different from the glory of the earthly bodies. The sun has one kind of glory, while the moon and stars each have another kind. And even the stars differ from each other in their glory.

It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies. **1 Corinthians 15:35–44 NLT**

Sermon Insight: It’s a long road from Adam to Jesus. In many ways, we still feel the weight of that difference – the difference between who we are and who we were meant to be.

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

How does this Scripture give you hope, both for this life (living a “new life” through Jesus) and for the next life in Heaven with Jesus?

Baptism is acting out what you did in your repentance: you died to your own control and gave God permission to raise you to live a new life. How is this completely different from simply “striving to be a good person”?

How can these truths help you be truly thankful to Jesus?

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, thank you for giving me the gift of life and helping me become the person you created me to be! Teach me what to “plant” so that I can bring you glory!

DAY 2 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER (“SOAP”)

CONVERSATION STARTER

When you are disappointed, where do you turn?

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit. What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later. Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven. Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man. Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man.

What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.

But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. **1 Corinthians 15:45–58 NLT**

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Are you looking forward to becoming like the “heavenly man”?

Have you given your life to Jesus so you have the hope of an eternal body?

Are you living in victory over sin and death through Jesus?

Are you working enthusiastically for the Lord?

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, thank you for giving us hope for this world and beyond. Help me serve you with joy!

DAY 3 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER ("SOAP")

CONVERSATION STARTER

What is something you have happily received that you did not deserve?

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God. **Romans 5:1-11 NLT**

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Some people pridefully think, "I am a self-made person!" Why is this incompatible with faith? "Confidently...joyfully...looking forward...rejoice...endurance...character...strength..." These are all GIFTS to those who have humbly accepted Jesus as Lord. Have you?

"Undeserved privilege...utterly helpless...sinners..." The Scripture is clear—it was only through the blood of Jesus that our sins can be paid for. This leaves no room for self-centered pride. Rather it gives way to confident hope—that God has provided the way. How are you living in your "friendship with God"?

Many people think "people are basically good." What does the Bible say about that?

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, it is only through your grace that you have given us life. Teach me how to really live!

DAY 4 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER (“SOAP”)

CONVERSATION STARTER

“What a difference one day can make...” What day or event does that bring to mind?

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. But there is a great difference between Adam’s sin and God’s gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.

And the result of God’s gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man’s sin. For Adam’s sin led to condemnation, but God’s free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

Yes, Adam’s one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ’s one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

God’s law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God’s wonderful grace became more abundant. So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God’s wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Romans 5:12-21 NLT**

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

“God’s free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins.” Take a look at each word carefully...let it slowly work its way into your understanding of who God is, who you are, and how you can embrace God’s power in your life!

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, thank you for being full of grace and truth. Thank you for giving me life I didn’t deserve!

DAY 5 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER ("SOAP")

CONVERSATION STARTER

What team did you join in the past that gave you the most pride and joy?

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

Romans 6:1–14 NLT

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

What does it mean to die to sin?

Jesus set us free! We are no longer slaves to sin! How will you live in this freedom?

Is there any part of your body that is currently serving sin? How can you more completely give yourself to God, since you have new life?

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, thank you for sharing your death and your life with me! I cannot possibly deserve it, but I can gratefully embrace the opportunity you give!