



MAY 21

COME ALIVE

GRAVEYARDS



GETTING STARTED

This weekend we continued in our series, *Come Alive*, and learned that when we allow Jesus to open the graves in our lives, He can bring new life to those dark places.

In last week's study we looked at the words Jesus quoted from Isaiah 61:1-3. As you begin this study, spend a few minutes reflecting on those words again that He spoke at the beginning of His ministry.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." **Luke 4:18-19**



STUDY QUESTIONS

- 1) This weekend Joel talked about four examples of graves in our lives. What was one thing that stood out to you from this message?

- 2) In the message, Joel touched on a story of healing in Mark 5:21-24, 35-40. Read through this story and answer the questions below.
 - a. Picture yourself in this scene with the crowd. You knew the girl had already died but Jesus walks in and declares, "The child is not dead, but asleep." How would you have reacted? Why do you think some found this to be laughable?

 - b. Jesus said to Jairus, "Do not be afraid; just believe." How can these words of Jesus help you build your faith in the areas of your life that seem dead?

- 3) Another powerful story of Jesus overcoming the grave is when He raised Lazarus back to life. Read John 11:1-44. As you read, write down any words or verses that seem highlighted to you.
 - a. Why does Jesus allow Lazarus to die? (John 11:4, 14, 40, and 42)

 - b. What declaration does Jesus make about who He is in verses 25-26?

 - c. What does this story and the previous one from Mark 5, teach us about how Jesus views death.

4) We learned this weekend that one of the keys that unlocks the graveyards in our life is having faith and trusting in Jesus to *be* who He says He is and to *do* what He promised to do. How can you remind yourself of who Jesus is so you can strengthen your trust in Him?

5) In 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul tells us that through faith in Christ we are a new creation, and with Jesus we are given His power to overcome our “graves.” Read the following verses from 2 Corinthians.

- 2 Corinthians 3:17-18
- 2 Corinthians 4:7-12
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- 2 Corinthians 12:9

a. What hope do we have because of the Spirit at work in our lives? (2 Cor 3:17-18)

b. How does Paul describe this *treasure* we have been given? (2 Cor 4:7)

c. For what purpose do we carry the “death of Jesus” in our body? (2 Cor 4:10-11)

d. Why does Paul boast of his weaknesses? (2 Cor 12:9)

e. How do you find strength from these passages to help increase your faith in the power of the Spirit to overcome your “*graves*”?

6) Joel posed the question, “What if we allowed Jesus to be all that He is and bring the fullness of new life into our stories... what would we dare to believe He could do?” How would you answer that question?

7) What are those places in your life that seem dead and beyond hope today?

a. Spend time asking the Father what He wants to do in those areas and for any steps you might need to take to partner with Him to bring new life (i.e., memorizing a scripture verse, confessing sin to a trusted friend, seeking help from a therapist, going to Celebrate Recovery, etc.). Rely on Him for the strength and perseverance you need to listen and follow how He leads you.