

## The Opener

Martha and Blessing were good friends. They were in the same class and attended the same youth group. They liked talking together about their families, about boys, about what they wanted to do when they were older, and many other things.

For some time, Blessing had not been feeling fine, then one day Martha heard she was in the hospital. When Martha and the youth group went to visit her, she looked very weak. The group sang a song to her, then prayed along with the pastor and Blessings' parents for her strength and healing.

Two days later, though, Blessing died. Martha and her friends are very sad and have many questions, such as, "Why would God let a good person die so young?" "Why weren't their prayers answered?" "Will God win the struggle between life and death?" ASK for any comments and thoughts.

## Truth Discovery

**Act I: God, the Living Life-Giver**

Have students read these verses and tell what they teach us about the source of life. Discuss after each point.

- Genesis 1:26–27, 1:31, 2:7. God created people in his own image, breathing life into them, giving them his own spiritual life as well as physical life.
- Psalm 104:24–30, Isaiah 42:5–6, Acts 17:25. God gives life and sustains it for people and for all creation.
- John 4:14, 5:21, 6:27–33, 14:6. Jesus is the source of eternal life. He himself is that life and he gives it to us.

But, if God is Life and the one who delights to give life, why is there death, why do we get sick and suffer, why do we die?

**Act II: Sin and Death Enter the World**

- Genesis 3:17–19, Romans 5:12, 8:20–21. Adam sinned, bringing down death, decay, and suffering on all creation. God's creation was perfect, without any evil, but man's evil destroyed that.

**Act III: Jesus Challenges Evil and Death**

Through the centuries, death and decay were in control, just as God had foretold. Still, God was preparing a solution, a way to save mankind from our terrible fate. The

solution started with Abraham and continued through his descendents the Jews, but was not complete. Then Jesus was born.

Have students read and discuss these verses point by point.

- Luke 4:16–21, 10:17–20, 11:17–22. Jesus announced the arrival of the *kingdom of God*, with the power of healing, forgiveness, and life. As the King, he opposed the kingdom of Satan.
- Luke 7:11–17, Mark 5:35–42, John 11:17–26; 33–44. These are three examples of Jesus raising the dead. What do they show about his power? Were they proof of his final victory over sin and death? (Hint: did Jesus forever free these people from death, or did they die again in the end like everyone else?)

Jesus did bring in the kingdom of God, but sin and death still held power over the world. The victory was not yet won.

**Act IV: The Resurrection and the Victory of God**

Jesus was executed and his followers scattered in hiding. It seemed that the kingdom of Satan and death had won. Then something totally new and unexpected happened, something that had never happened before.

Read Luke 24:1–7, 35–43. Jesus had risen from the dead, but this was unlike any previous resurrection. He had a new body, a body which was real, could be touched, and could eat but could also appear and disappear even through walls. The new body was real but eternal, free from sickness and death. In short, Jesus had conquered death once and for all. He was the first to experience the *eternal* resurrection, the end of death.

ASK what these verses mean for us today. 2 Corinthians 15:20–26, 50–58. Jesus is the "firstfruits," meaning the first one to be raised, but some day we will all be raised just as he was, not as ghosts, angels, or spirits, but with a glorious, real body to live forever in a new and glorious world.

Challenge 

Realize that you and your friends are *eternal* beings made in God's own image. In light of this, are you living as you should?

## A Quick Look

## Aim

The students will:

- understand and become convinced that Jesus came to bring life
- recognize the power of God over death through Jesus

## From the Word

Genesis 1–3

Psalm 104

Mark 5:21–24; 35–43

Luke 7:11–17

John 5:21; 11:17–26;  
38–44

## What You Need

## Memory Verse

John 11:25



# Lesson 15

## God the Giver of Life

Divide into small groups. Design a card for somebody who is bereaved. Let the message in the card contain something we have learned today. Share the cards with the whole class. Plan to deliver the cards in the coming week.



### Firm Foothold

#### John 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

### The Bottom Line

Understand that Jesus is the giver of life and in Him alone there is power over death. When Jesus was raised from the dead, it was to a glorious, eternal body. He promises that he is the first, and that we too shall be raised the same way if we believe in him. Anyone who believe in His death and resurrection will have this gift of eternal life. Challenge someone to see the need of believing in Jesus today.

