

Up from the Grave – part 2: Dream Again

May 1, 2011

Review It

The central tenant of all Christianity is the glorious fact that Jesus rose from the grave to give us eternal life. But it's also true that life on this side of Heaven can feel death itself. That is, we may have **eternal** life but experience **internal** death and decay. We're taking four Sundays to examine this pain and learn how we, like Jesus, can rise from this grave.

Talk About It

1. Last week's "Act on It" challenge stated that many so-called prophets and wise men lived and then died, and they are dead still. Christ, as fully man, died as well—but He alone is alive forevermore. Over this past week, who had an opportunity to convey this truth to a friend? What was the result?
2. In his video message, Pastor Chris shared some miraculous statistics of lives impacted through our Easter services. How did that "It's not over," message affect you personally? What has happened in your life and your relationship with Christ over this past week?
3. In keeping with the theme of this week's message, "Dream Again," do you have dreams for a friend or loved one to come (or come back) to Christ? Were any of those dreams fulfilled this Easter—that is, did you know a previous "D" who became a "C," or a "C" become a "B"?
4. [Review the events in Genesis chapters 15-22] Who has had an experience similar to any aspect of what happened to Abraham or Sarah?
5. [Read Genesis 22: 15-18] An angel of the Lord told Abraham that because he stepped out in faith, God would bless him again. Share an experience when you chose to obey God and He showed up in a mighty way and blessed you – even beyond your dreams.

Think About It

[Read Revelation 1:18] Jesus not only tells us how to find eternal life, but that He Himself is the resurrection, the only one who can save us from an eternal grave. He alone is the keeper of the keys to unlock our earthly grave, to raise us out of the death and pain we experience today. In what ways have you tried to do this with your own set of keys? What have been the results?

Act on It

Of the three “dream killers” – unfulfilled expectations, unrelenting doubt and unchangeable circumstances – which has sucked the life out of your aspirations and hopes? What do you need to do to let God breathe life into your dreams again?