

## JESUS IS LIFE | EPISODE 4

### Episode 4 Video Timestamps:

0:00-31:47 - Session 1: The Tree of Life

31:50-53:01 - Session 2: Jesus Is The Life God Offers To People

53:02-1:27:41 - Session 3: Enjoying The Abundant Life Jesus Gives

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### SESSION 1: THE TREE OF LIFE

We lack life without Jesus. Without Jesus, we lack substantial, abundant, eternal life that goes beyond merely existing. The best way to enjoy abundant, satisfying life each day is to better understand the One who is our life and what it means that He is our very life for now and eternity. This requires us to start in the Old Testament to build a brief summary of what life was always intended to look like, and it looked like walking with God.

*John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

As we explore the idea of "life" within the Old Testament story, you're going to see a placeholder begin to develop for this One who will bring life.

*Genesis 2:9 - And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life** was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

The tree of life is in the midst of the garden to benefit humanity as a symbolic representation or actual reality of the true life of God for His image bearers

*Genesis 2:17 - but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die.**"*

The loss of life (death) is what results from sin. Being cut off from the tree of life will be the consequence for sin as the main form of death God promises.

*Genesis 3:22-24 - Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of **the tree of life** and eat, and live forever—" therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.*

Humanity is cut off from eternal life, the tree of life, which is mainly about the garden presence of God because eternal life is knowing God.

*Leviticus 17:11, 14 - For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is **the blood that makes atonement by the life**. For the life of every creature is its blood: its blood is its life. Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, You shall not eat the blood of any creature, for the life of every creature is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.*

In this Leviticus passage, we already see a placeholder for Jesus to fill, as the One who will give His life (blood) to atone for sin and give us life.

*Deuteronomy 30:15 - See, I have set before you **today life and good**, death and evil.*

*Deuteronomy 30:19-20 - I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have **set before you life** and death, blessing and curse. Therefore **choose life**, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for **he is your life** and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."*

In the re-affirming of the Sinai Covenant, and the giving of the Mosaic Law, we see that God is their life. God sets before them life and death. The way of life and the way of death are presented to Israel and these commands outline what it looks like for Israel to align themselves with God and His will, and stay under His protective presence. But, He is their life, not their ability to obey. The Laws simply outline for Israel what it looks like to stay near to the one who is their life.

If we're to have life, we need One who can perfectly embody the ways of life by following the Torah perfectly

*Deuteronomy 32:47 - For it is no empty word for you, but **your very life**, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."*

*Job 12:10 - In his hand **is the life** of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.*

God is the One who rightfully owns, and possesses all possible life in existence. The One who grants life to us, must also be the One who has authority over all life as the essence and source of life Himself.

A few things regarding God giving life to His image bearers in the earth...

*Psalm 119:25 - My soul clings to the dust;  
give me life **according to your word!***

*Psalm 119:40 - Behold, I long for your precepts;  
**in your righteousness** give me life!*

*Psalm 119:50 - This is my comfort in my affliction,  
that **your promise** gives me life.*

*Psalm 119:88 - **In your steadfast love** give me life,  
that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.*

*Psalm 119:156 - **Great is your mercy, O LORD;**  
give me life according to your rules.*

*Proverbs 3:16-18 - **Long life** is in her right hand;  
in her left hand are riches and honor.  
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,  
and all her paths are peace.  
**She is a tree of life** to those who lay hold of her;*

*those who hold her fast are called blessed.*

The symbolic metaphor used of wisdom here is a woman to be contrasted with lady folly or lady foolishness. This doesn't mean wisdom is a female in all reality

*Daniel 12:2 - And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, **some to everlasting life**, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

The kind of life we need is everlasting in nature and it comes in the wake of re-awakening from a death like sleep

*Jonah 2:5-7 - The waters closed in over me to **take my life**;  
the deep surrounded me;  
weeds were wrapped about my head  
at the roots of the mountains.  
I went down to the land  
whose bars closed upon me forever;  
yet you brought up my life from the pit,  
O LORD my God.  
When **my life** was fainting away,  
I remembered the LORD,  
and my prayer came to you,  
into your holy temple.*

Like Jonah, who brought the message of repentance to the Gentiles, we need One who will be brought up from death to bring the good news of repentance to the whole world, and this is why Jesus says the only sign He gives is the sign of Jonah

### **SESSION 1: PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTION**

- Read through the Scriptures for this week and consider how God defines life.

### **SESSION 1: GROUP QUESTIONS**

1. What do you think it practically means to live in the abundant life of Christ, here on the earth?

2. What are your expectations of how that should look?
  3. What does it mean for us to "choose life" on a daily basis? [Consider the teachings of Jesus, especially the beatitudes in Matthew 5]
  4. Deuteronomy 30 says that God's commandments are the life of His people. What does this mean for the original Hebrew audience? In what ways were God's commands their "life?"
  5. As new covenant believers, does Deuteronomy 30 apply to us, or was that only for the Israelites under the Old covenant? If not, how do we now relate to God's Law?
  6. Think of how God's love relates to the life He offers His people. How might these two ideas be connected? [Consider John 3:16]
  7. Based on this connection between life and love what is the main way that God's life might be expressed in our community?
  8. In what ways can we (as a community) offer God's life to the unbelieving world around us? Give some practical examples.
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## **SESSION 2: JESUS IS THE LIFE GOD OFFERS TO PEOPLE**

John 11:25 - Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life.** Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and **the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.

Colossians 3:4 - When **Christ who is your life appears**, then you also will appear with him in glory.

1 John 1:1-2 - That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning **the word of life– the life** was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you **the eternal life**, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us

1 John 5:20 - And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son **Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.**

John 17:3 - And **this is eternal life**, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Revelation 22:1-2 - Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, **the tree of life** with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:14 - Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to **the tree of life** and that they may enter the city by the gates.

*Revelation 22:17 - The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires **take the water of life** without price.*

*Hebrews 7:16 - who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of **an indestructible life***

*1 Corinthians 15:45 - Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam **became a life-giving spirit.***

## **SESSION 2: PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTION**

- Read through the Scriptures for this week and consider what it means that Jesus is life.

## **SESSION 2: GROUP QUESTIONS**

1. When you hear that "Jesus is our life" what does this mean for you? Try to support your reasoning with Scripture.
  2. How have you experienced the abundant life of God this week? How have you shared God's abundant life with those around you?
  3. 1 John 5:20 tells us that Jesus is both God, and our eternal life. In order for Jesus to be our eternal life, He has to be God. Why do you think this is? [Think of who holds the power of life]
  4. John 17:3 tells us that eternal life is knowing God, and His Son. What does it mean to know God? [Think of what it means to really know someone]
  5. Why doesn't John 17:3 just say that eternal life is knowing "God?" Why does it include Jesus?
  6. The tree of life is a focus of many passages about God's life. Why do you think this is? What are the authors of the Bible telling us about the life God offers in His Son?
  7. 1 Corinthians 15:45 tells us that real life comes through Jesus giving up His life. Based on this, what will it look like for a community to walk in God's abundant life? Give some examples.
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### **SESSION 3: ENJOYING THE ABUNDANT LIFE OF GOD**

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish **but have eternal life.**

John 1:4 - In him **was life**, and **the life** was the light of men.

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. **Whoever follows me** will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

John 6:33-35 - For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life**; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and **whoever believes** in me shall never thirst.

John 6:51 - I am **the living bread** that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, **he will live forever.** And the bread that I will give for the life of the world **is my flesh."**

Matthew 20:28 - even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and **to give his life** as a ransom for many."

John 10:10-11 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd **lays down his life for the sheep.**

Romans 5:10 - For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall **we be saved by his life.**

Romans 5:18 - Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so **one act of righteousness leads** to justification **and life for all men**



## **Jesus Has Authority To Give Us His Life Because He Is Our Life:**

Romans 8:2-4 - For the law of **the Spirit of life** has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. **By sending his own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

John 5:21-26 - For as the Father raises the dead and **gives them life**, so also the **Son gives life** to whom he will. For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself

Acts 3:15 - and you killed the **Author of life**

2 Timothy 1:9-10 - who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, **who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,**

1 John 5:11-12 - And this is the testimony, that God **gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son**. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

## **Enjoying This New Life Now in Christ**

*Romans 6:4 - We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might **walk in newness of life.***

*Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ. **It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me*

*Philippians 2:16 - **holding fast to the word of life,** so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.*

*James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who **remains steadfast under trial,** for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.*

### **SESSION 3: PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTION**

- Read through the Scriptures for this week and think about why we need life and what it means that Jesus gives us His life.

### **SESSION 3: GROUP QUESTIONS**

1. Jesus came to give His life so others could have true life. What does it mean to lay down our lives for those around us?
2. How have you imitated Jesus this week by laying down your life? How can you begin to do this where God has placed you?
3. What should motivate us to lay down our lives and serve others even when they don't "deserve it?" What personally motivates you?
4. John 6:51 says that we need to "eat the living bread" Jesus offers if we want to have true life. Based on the context, what does it mean to practically do this?
5. John 8:12 says we need to follow Jesus to have the light of life. It sounds like our eternal life depends on our ability to live obediently. Is this what He's saying? If not, what does He mean?

6. Romans 6:4 says that we can walk in newness of life because we died with Christ. What does it mean to “die with Christ?”
7. Why did we need to die in order to live? [Think about what we’re dying to]
8. James 1:12 says the path to life is paved with trials. How does our church community play a role in our own personal endurance? (Think of what God does through community)