

God of new life, in your mercy you always seek to restore us to you and to one another: you give us new life. Breathe in us always the life that we crave from you. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Old Testament did not really speak of resurrection in terms of “going to heaven” for all eternity. Rather, they look at it as being restored to relationship with God and one another. Thus, you don’t see the word “resurrection” much, or at all, in the Old Testament. Rather it is implied in the kinds of stories we’ll see in this lesson.

Day 1 Read Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17

1a. In Verses 4b-7 what words indicate a kind of “lifelessness” in the new creation of God?

b. From what material did God form the man?

2. We talked about the role of water and wind/breath/spirit/“*ruah*” in creation in earlier sessions. But look at your two above answers . . . from what LIVING material did God create the man? What does that indicate about the creative power of God?

3a. So, the man has been given life. What is the commandment and sentence for eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil?

b. Death . . . is there another way of thinking about death in this rather than just physical death? What else might die if this commandment is ignored?

Day 2 Read Genesis 3:1-19

4. Before we even get to the consequences of Adam and Eve’s actions how do we know that because of their actions, things have already changed in this wonderful Eden they lived in (hint: see verses 7 & 8)?

5. Remember when God said they were going to die? Did they die? How might we understand how the man and woman did actually “die” in verses 14-19?

Day 3 Read 1 Kings 17:8-24

6a. Elijah comes to the Widow of Zarephath – Elijah is told she is going to feed him bread. What does she say she is going to do in verse 12?

b. "Eat and die." That should sound backwards to our Christian ears. When we "eat" bread in our tradition, what is our expectation, faith, and hope (see John 6:51)?

c. But we can probably understand this widow's hopelessness. How long has this WIDOW been "dead?"

7a. In the event the unending meal and oil blessing didn't get how God redeems people from death, what happens when her son gets ill and dies?

b. What is the larger message of both the meal/oil and the restoration of the son of the widow?

Day 4 Read 2 Kings 4:8-44

8a. What are the four miracles performed by the prophet, Elisha in these verses?

b. In what way are each of these actions a kind of "resurrection?"

9. Who else in our Christian tradition gave us similar miracles that pointed to something bigger? What is that something bigger he pointed to?

Day 5 Read Job 19:25-26

10. Job has lost his family, his living, his health and he is struggling with the role God has in suffering. His friends try to help him, but prove to be poor comforters. Nevertheless in his suffering, Job does not waver in his trust in God. What does he say about his God in these verses?

11. Put Job's hope into your own words. What is his faith?

Day 6 Read Ezekiel 37:1-14

12. We've already talked about these verses in our study on the Holy Spirit. It's your turn since I've been guiding you through it the entire lesson. These verses describe the way the people of Israel are in exile after straying from God. How does the prophet describe death and resurrection?