

Life or Death

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 

Lesson 8**Focus:**

Jesus has absolute power over death.

Lesson 8**Bible Basis:**

John 11:1-44

Lesson 8**Memory Verse:**

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”
—John 11:25

Students will watch a video about a baby whom doctors said would not live but defied the odds as they explore Jesus’ absolute power over death.

Materials:

- Internet access

- **Talk about a time when you thought something bad was going to happen and something good happened instead. Maybe your team came back from being way behind to win the game, or someone you know was really sick but got better.** (Answers will vary. Have a story from your own life prepared to get discussion going.)
- **How did you feel when you realized the bad thing wasn’t going to happen after all?** (Students may talk about feeling relieved, overjoyed, amazed, etc.)

We all love a good surprise. But sometimes we’re surprised in life by something bad. We live in a world where there is life and death. People are born, and people die. You may know someone who has died. Even with doctors and hospitals, sometimes people die—and that is very sad. Ultimately, life and death are beyond our control. This can be sad and scary, especially when people we love are sick and dying.

In 2018, a young couple found out they were expecting twins. They were overjoyed at the news, but after a few months, these parents were forced to reckon with the realities of their children’s life and death. Let’s watch the video to learn more.

Share the following video with your students [5:35]:

Mom puts the baby to the dying Twin and five minutes later a real Miracle happens... | PLOT
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYMFoBsPynE>

- **What happened that surprised everyone?** (Students may share that Daniel didn’t die as the doctors had predicted; Dylan seemed to improve his condition and probably even saved his life.)
- **How do you think the twins’ parents felt?** (Answers will vary. Students may say that they were amazed and couldn’t believe what was happening, they were surprised that Dylan seemed to help Daniel, they were thrilled, etc.)

Daniel and Dylan's parents were overjoyed that Daniel's condition improved! Eventually, they were able to take home both brothers from the hospital. Their bond of brotherhood has only grown with time.

At one point, the twins' parents believed their son Daniel would not live. They had to prepare for that devastation and say goodbye. While Daniel ended up living, the reality of death can feel sad and even frightening.

As believers in Jesus, we don't have to fear it. Jesus has conquered death and offers us eternal life. When Jesus was on earth, some of His friends experienced the death of someone they loved very much. But Jesus showed that He has absolute power over death.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 8 / January 22, 2023

Life or Death

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 8**Focus:**

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Lesson 8**Bible Basis:**

John 11:1-44

Lesson 8**Memory Verse:**

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”
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Materials:

- Paper
- Pens/pencils
- Optional: Colored markers

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring paper and pens/pencils with them to class.

Jesus showed Mary and Martha that He had absolute power over death when He raised Lazarus. Death in our world is the result of sin. (You may choose to read Romans 5:12.) But Jesus died so that we can be forgiven of our sin; He reconciled us to God. Even though it’s sad when someone dies, we can have peace and hope when we obediently believe in Jesus.

Ask a volunteer to read today’s memory verse (John 11:25).

- **What does it mean that Jesus is the resurrection and the life?** (Students may discuss that Jesus died on the cross and rose again, conquering death, and offers eternal life to those who obediently believe in Him.)
- **What does it mean that a person who believes in Jesus lives even though he dies?** (Students may discuss that when a Christian dies, he or she goes to heaven to live with God forever.)

If you trust in Jesus as your Savior, you will never truly die. Your body will die, but your soul—the part of you that thinks and feels—will live forever with God. Jesus has absolute power over death, both in this life and in eternity. That is why we don’t need to fear death.

Hand each child a sheet of paper and a pencil (you may want to provide markers for this art project). If your class is meeting online, invite students to have supplies ready at home.

Jesus has absolute power over death. What an amazing truth that can give us peace and hope. Take the next few minutes to draw something that represents Jesus being the resurrection and the life. You can draw fancy or graffiti words, a cross and tomb, a picture of Jesus or a picture that represents how you feel because of this truth.

Optional: If you feel comfortable, you can play this song in the background as your preteens draw.

Phil Wickham – Living Hope (Official Music Video) [5:31]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-1fwZtKJSM>

Jesus has absolute power over death. It's no problem to Him. He defeated sin and death for all time! Listen as I read a few of the lyrics from the song:

*Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

Jesus is our living hope. We do not have to be afraid of death, because He has absolute power over it. Put your drawing in a place you will see it this week, to remind you Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

If time permits invite (but do not require) volunteers to show and discuss what they drew.

Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for conquering death and offering us eternal life.

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