

Word notes Sunday 29/01/2012 Tony Hodge
Jesus: I am the Life

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: John 14:6

Life is amazing; from flowers and plants to teeming insects and the birth of our own children life is wonderful. What is the source of all this explosive energy –the LORD God (Gen 2:4-7). While the first creation account in Gen. 1 tells us of an ordered universe and that we are no accident, the second tells us where the life force within us comes from – God.

Man may be able to interfere with the creative urge of life through breeding, IVF or molecular biology but when all is said and done he's just manipulating what God already created. While pressure groups of all kinds accuse medics and scientists of "playing God" the truth is that is what man has tried to do since the fall in the Garden of Eden and the result is the all too obvious problem with "Life As We Know It" – Death.

Death was not what God created us for. Mankind brought it upon himself through trying to go his own way and not God's. By grasping for the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil we did just that. God created Man to be in relationship with Him – a relationship which in order to be called "love" had to come out of freedom and trust, just like an earthly marriage. Without the freedom it would be slavery pure and simple. By not trusting God and what He said we now face death as a "normal" part of life.

But God wasn't satisfied by this state of affairs. The answer He had was to send His Son, Jesus, being fully God and fully Man, to tell us all of Father's love and then to deal with death by offering himself in our place paying our penalty of death (Jn 3:16). That's pretty amazing too, and there is one thing we must do in order to gain this blessing – believe in Jesus (Jn 11:25,26).

If we will believe, follow the Jesus Way by confessing he is the Christ and obeying his commands, putting our trust in him that he is the Truth, not holding on to my ideas when then are not his, then we will have Life – full, abundant life here and a sure hope for our future.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

What examples from the New Testament would you give to show that Jesus is The Life? Why do they speak to you personally about life?

How many people were raised from the dead in the Gospels alone? What does this tell you about the truth of Jesus statement in Jn 14:6?

Read Gal 2:20. What does Paul mean when he says he's been "crucified with Christ"?

What impact does this have on how he lives?

What impact does it have on how you live?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. When it comes to sharing with unbelievers do you tend to focus on one of those aspects more than the other? In what ways could you witness to Jesus the Way? What about Jesus the Truth? How about Jesus the Life?