

# THEME: Whose Life Is It Anyway?

## LOOKING BACK

- What was the most important thing you did or heard from the last session?

## CONNECT Ownership

### Resources

Bibles, paper money (from a board game or handmade), items to sell in a shopping skit, two letter size (A4) blank papers, pens/markers, Scripture page – one for every three people (provided), letter size (A4) printouts of Scripture Sketch sheets - one per person (provided), pencils/colored pencils

### 1<sup>st</sup> Icebreaker Activity - Let's Go Shopping!

#### Things to Prepare:

- Paper money – enough for half the group to go shopping; the other half have no money to shop.
- Gather a few items to sell in the Shopping Skit.
- Scriptures handwritten in large letters, with black pen or markers, on two letter size (A4) papers: **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV); Romans 14:8 (NIV)**.

#### Activity – Shopping Skits:

- Ask for some people to be shopkeepers and give them a few items to sell from their shops.
- The rest of the group will be the shoppers. Give half of them some paper money. The others are shoppers without money.
- As a group, perform a Shopping Skit. Have the shoppers go around to buy things from the sellers. The ones with money will be able to buy items. The other ones will not be able to buy anything, but the sellers will let them take some items with them. As the shoppers “leave” to go home, tell the sellers to come after those who did not pay and say they have to give them back because the items don't belong to them.

### Discuss

- How did the shoppers with money feel about their purchases? They felt good because they could keep the items they had bought. The shoppers without money had to give the items back.
- Why did the shoppers who had money get to keep the items? When people buy something and pay for it, they own it. Ownership of something usually involves buying it.
- When we want to buy things, we need to have currency. What was the currency in our Shopping Skits? We used paper money. It wasn't real, but we pretended that it was valuable.
- Let's look now at these two scriptures, handwritten on paper for us:
  - **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)** – “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”

- **Romans 14:8** (NIV) – “If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.”
- Jesus is saying that He has bought people. Did you know you have been bought by Jesus?
- If Jesus has bought us, then we belong to Him, as it says in **Romans 14:8**. Hands up if you belong to Jesus. *Hands up.*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Icebreaker Activity - Bought by Jesus!**

**Things to Prepare:** Print the letter size (A4) papers with three scriptures – one sheet for every three people (see separate page) and cut them into three strips.

### **Activity – Small Group Huddle:**

- Divide the group into three and give each person a Scripture Slip of paper, on which is one of the three scriptures to read.
- Ask them to look at their scriptures to answer this question: What is similar between all three verses? *They all speak of Jesus' blood. The currency Jesus used to buy people was his blood because Jesus suffered and gave up his life for us.*
- Stay sitting together in your small groups for the discussion. You will want to be looking at each other's Scripture Slips.

### **Discuss**

- Use your small group's Scripture Slips to answer these three questions:
- What types of people did Jesus buy? *They came from every tribe, language, people, and nation.*
- What kind of animal is Jesus compared to when He buys people with His blood? *He is called the Lamb of God.*
- What are we meant to do since Jesus bought the church with His blood? *We are to care for the church because they are precious to Jesus.*
- Since Jesus bought us with His blood, how should we now live? (Look at the scripture from earlier, **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**.) *We are to honor God with our bodies.*

# TRUTH TO KNOW

## Faith Focus: Whose Life Is It?

### Introduction

We want to help you know the Truth and will do our best to tell you what is true, but you don't just need to take our word. You need to read it in the Bible for yourself. So we will open the Bible and read the Truth each time we meet. This week's "Truth to Know" is found in **Galatians 2:20**.

Did you know the Bible tells us that we were crucified with Christ?

### Background to This Bible Passage

Galatians is a letter the Apostle Paul wrote to a group of churches in a region called Galatia. Paul wrote to Christians in several cities in this region to teach them about the power of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. He was teaching the idea that believers in Jesus - those who follow Him - are free from the curse of sin, the law, and even from themselves.

### The Unfolding Story - Your Interactive Teaching

Read **Galatians 2:20**.

- What does Paul mean when he says he has been crucified with Christ? What Jesus did when He died on the cross was so powerful that it wiped out all the consequences of our sins. It's as if the old us has died, and now Christ is living inside of us and through our lives.
- How are we living if we have died to our old way of life? We are living because Christ is living in us. He took away our sins and now lives in us by His Holy Spirit.
- Read **2 Corinthians 4:6-7** (NASB). Notice the words "treasure in earthen (or clay) vessels (or jars)."
- What is the treasure in this verse? It is God's Spirit living in those who have put their trust in Jesus.
- What is the vessel of clay (and why is it called that)? A vessel is a pot. The "vessel of clay" refers to us - we are just ordinary people - nothing special - but God's Spirit shines out His light through our lives.
- God promised He would put His Spirit inside people (see Jeremiah and Ezekiel for examples). This promise is called the New Covenant.
- The New Covenant began to be fulfilled by Jesus when He was on the earth. The promise was prophesied around 600 years before the time of Jesus. Just as God had promised, the Spirit of God can now live in people because of what Jesus has accomplished through His death and resurrection.

### **Activity Suggestion - Jars of Clay**

**Aim:** To consider how we are to live our lives since we have the Spirit of God living on the inside of us.

#### **Things to Prepare:**

- Print the letter size (A4) Scripture Sketch sheets – one per person.
- Have pens/pencils/colored pencils available for all.

#### **Activity – Sketch and Walk:**

- Since God's Holy Spirit is living inside us, how should we live our lives?
- Think about this individually and then share your ideas.
- Give each person a pen and a letter size (A4) printed Scripture Sketch Sheet. They will work individually.
- Read the two scriptures on the sheet. Think about and jot down some specific ways that God might want us to live since we are like jars of clay. We have His Holy Spirit living inside of us. These ideas could include things to do and things not to do.
- Each person can choose one of these ideas and turn it into a rough sketch. Then, add a few KEY WORDS under the drawing. Those who finish quickly can add color.
- Now, lay out all the sketches and ideas around the room. Give time for people to walk around quietly, without talking, to observe everyone's ideas.

#### **Discuss - Whose Life Is It?**

- Our activity shows that having God's Holy Spirit within us means we ought to live differently. Can we just do whatever we want? No, we must surrender our plans and desires and look for what God wants.
- If we live a life of surrender to God, then whose life is it anyway? Our lives belong to Jesus. He bought us with His blood. If we can remember this, it will help us to live surrendered lives that bring glory to God.
- When someone surrenders, they lift their hands to show they are handing themselves over to whatever the other person wants. Take a moment to lift your hands to God and surrender your life to Him again to do whatever He wants you to do.

## READY TO GO

*Thinking about how this affects our lives and our response to the signs we see.*

Think about what you will do to live a surrendered life.

## TIME FOR ACTION



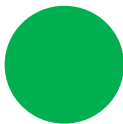
**1. “STOP & THINK” Action Point**

Take two minutes to think about your own life. Are you living in a way that surrenders your will to God’s will, to do what pleases Him?



**2. “PAUSE TO PRAY” Action Point**

Have a conversation with God about today’s lesson. Ask Him to give you a greater sense of His Holy Spirit within you and to help you live a more surrendered life. Pray for others in your church family to live a more surrendered life to God, too.



**3. “GO & DO” Action Point**

Think of one area in your life where you have found it hard to surrender to God and do what He wants you to do. Surrender that area to Him today and simply obey Him this week, even if you don’t feel like it.

## SPRINGBOARD

Discuss what topic you would like to do together next time. After this session, you may wish to follow up next time with one of the following sessions:

- How to Be in the World and Not of It
- Focus on the Cross
- Keeping Jesus Central

## DEEPER STUDY

*For those who would like to study further the themes raised in this session.*

### For Study

1. Read **Jeremiah 31:31-34** and **Ezekiel 36:24-28**. These are two key passages about the New Covenant. The Prophets wrote them around 600 years before the time of Jesus. How do these scripture passages connect to today's lesson?
2. The New Covenant is the reason that Paul was able to write about the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. Having the Holy Spirit means that we have Jesus living inside of us. Look at the following two scriptures about having Jesus in our hearts: **Colossians 1:27** and **Ephesians 3:17**. Which is your favorite, and why?

### For Memorizing

1. **Galatians 2:20** (NASB): "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."
2. **Romans 12:1** (NIV): "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship."

### For Observation

Watch this [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBSKjOfFHWI&feature=youtu.be) of Nick Vujicic. It is the first part of a series called *Living Fully For God*. Nick was born with no arms or legs, and yet he can live a life that is fully surrendered to God. He depends on God for everything and is committed to telling lots of people about Jesus. In what way(s) does Nick's story inspire you to live more for God's purposes than your own?

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBSKjOfFHWI&feature=youtu.be>)

### For Action

Go to this [article](https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/ways-to-authentically-live-for-jesus.html), which gives four ways to live authentically for Jesus. Choose ONE and try it out for the next few weeks. (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/ways-to-authentically-live-for-jesus.html>)

### Before the Next IN:Tribe

Look around you to find others you think are living lives surrendered to Jesus. What was it about their lives that gave evidence of living for God? Come ready to share what you have found.

### **Acts 20:28 (ESV)**

**Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.**

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### **1 Peter 1:18-19 (ESV)**

**Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.**

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### **Revelation 5:9 (ESV)**

**And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.**

# Scripture Sketch Sheet

Read the Scriptures:

**Romans 12:1** (ESV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

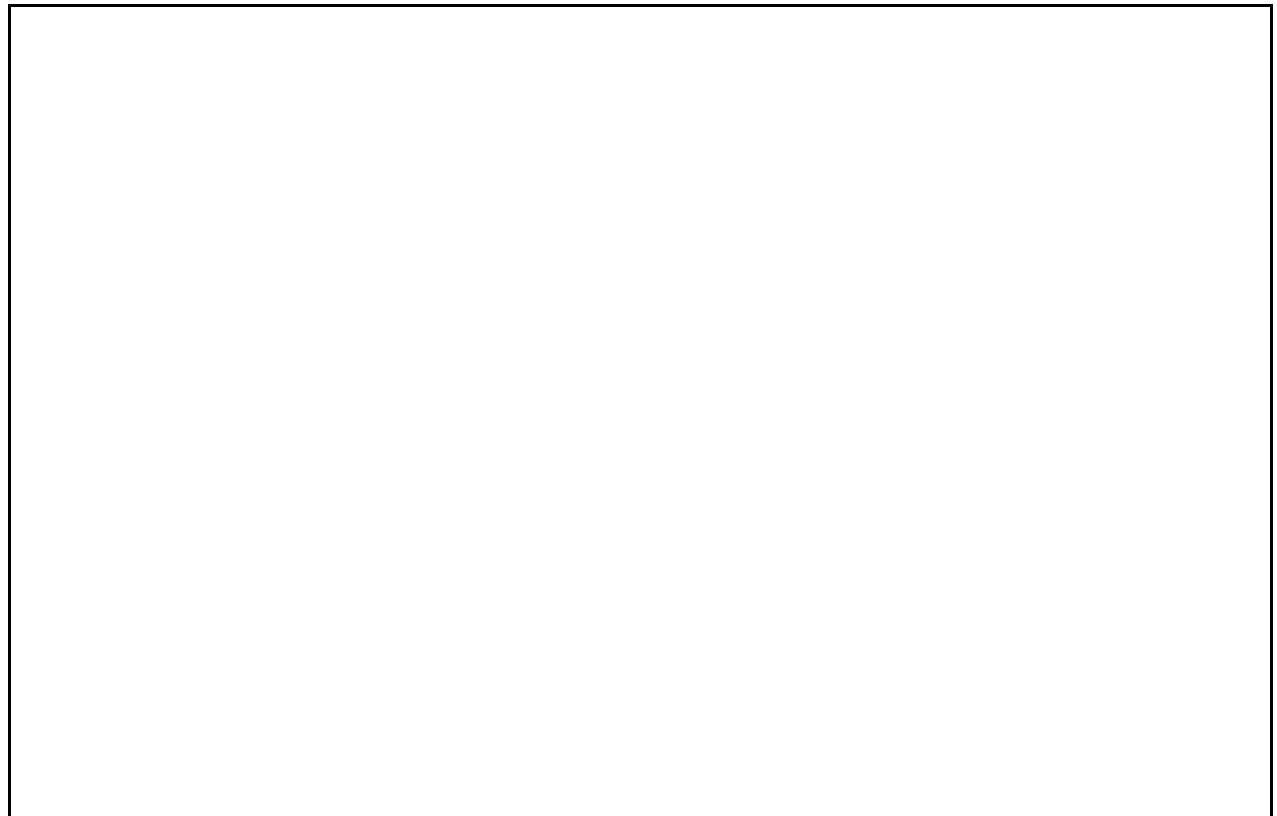
**1 Corinthians 10:31** (ESV)

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Question: Write Your Ideas

Since we are like *jars of clay* and have God's Holy Spirit inside us, how should we live our lives? (This can include things we should and should not do.)

Sketch: Draw One of Your Ideas





KEY Word(s) to Describe Your Sketch: