

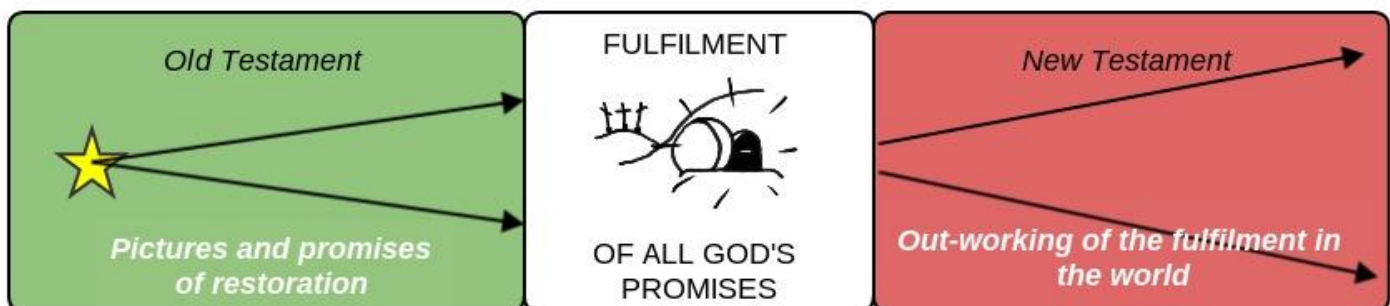
# The arrival of Life Himself

## The Story of Life- session 6

### The story so far...

1	God made people for <b>LIFE.</b>	<i>Submitting to God's Rule</i> <i>Experiencing God's Blessing</i> <i>Enjoying God's Presence</i>
2	People rebelled and chose <b>death</b>	<i>Rejecting God's Rule</i> <i>Experiencing God's Judgment</i> <i>Banished from God's presence</i>
3	God promises restoration to Abraham and rescues his people from slavery	<i>Rule restored: God's law is given;</i> <i>Blessing restored: God provides for his people in the desert;</i> <i>Presence restored: God dwells with his people through the tabernacle</i>
4	God brings his people into the promised land	<i>Rule restored: Kings are appointed to rule under God;</i> <i>Blessing restored: The land is 'flowing with milk and honey'</i> <i>Presence restored: God dwells with his people through the temple</i>
5	God's people disobey the law and are exiled for sin. God promises restoration through the prophets	<i>Rule rejected: The leaders and the people reject God's rule</i> <i>Judgement: The exile to Babylon is God's judgement for sin</i> <i>Presence: In the exile God removed the people from his presence</i>

## Jesus is the climax of the whole story



OT Scriptures point to Jesus  
(Luke 24:27, John 5:39-40)

Every promise is 'Yes' in Jesus  
(2 Cor 1:20)

New life in Jesus is proclaimed  
to the world  
(Col 1:28)

<b>Bible verses showing Jesus' centrality to the whole Bible</b>	
<b>2 Corinthians 1:20</b>	For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ
<b>Luke 24:27</b>	Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures <u>concerning himself</u>
<b>John 5:39-40</b>	You diligently study the scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. <u>These are the scriptures that testify about me</u> , yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

*Jesus said, "I have come that they may have **life**, and have it to the full" John 10:10*

## 1. God's plans fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus

### a. God's promised King has arrived (Matthew 1, p. 965)

- Jesus declares at the start of his ministry. *"Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is near!"*  
**Matthew 4:17**

- Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey. *This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet: 'Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your King comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt the foal of a donkey'* **Matthew 21:1-11**

b. **God's promised blessings are being restored** (Luke 4:14-21, p. 1031)

c. **Gods' promised presence now dwells with his people** (John 1:1-14, p. 1063)

**How God Dwells with his people**  
Garden of Eden → Tabernacle → Temple → Jesus

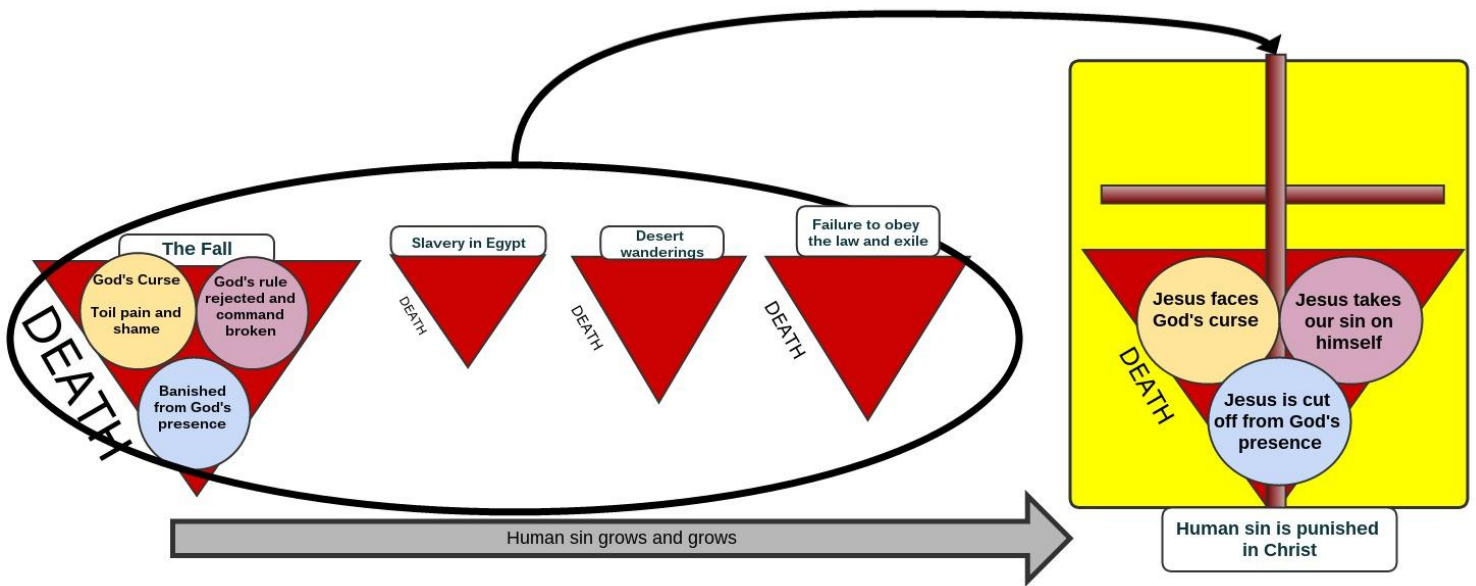
## 2. God's plans fulfilled in the rejection and death of Jesus

"Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man **must** suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he **must** be killed and after three days rise again" **Mark 8:31**

a. **At the cross Jesus takes our sin on himself** (2 Cor. 5:21 p. 1161)

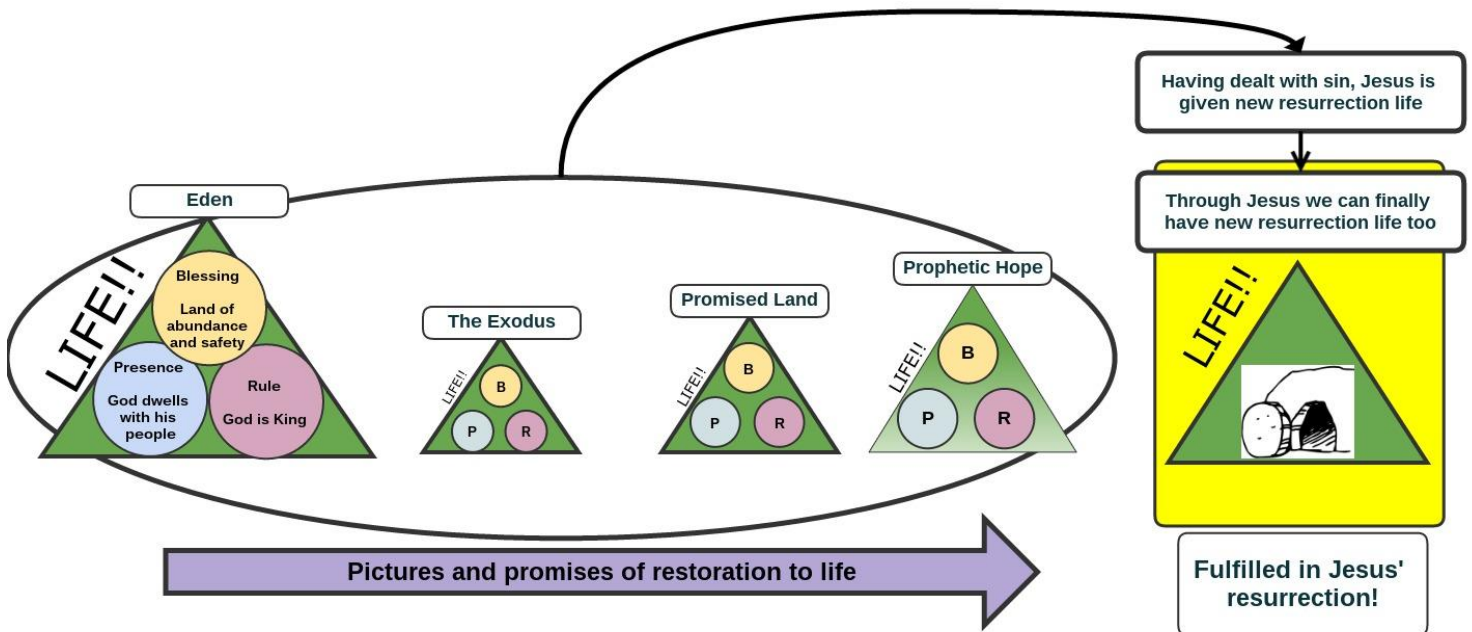
b. **At the cross Jesus faces God's curse for sin** (Gal. 3:13-14, p. 1170)

c. **At the cross Jesus is cut off from God's presence** (Mark 15:34, p. 1023)



### 3. God's plans fulfilled in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus

- a. **Sin and death are defeated as Jesus brings restored life** (1 Cor. 15:20-22, 54-57, p. 1156)
- b. **Jesus is now established as God's eternal King** (Phil. 2:5-11, p. 1179)
- c. **Jesus' new life is now freely to the world** (John 3:16, Acts 2:36-41, p. 1094)



## Small Groups – John 20

### A perplexing discovery (v1-8)

1. There is a lot of running in these verses! Why is that? What does it tell us about the events? About the disciples?
2. In v8-9, what does this disciple believe, but what have they still not understood?

### Mary meets Jesus (v9-18)

3. What do Mary's tears show about her understanding of what's happened?
4. What change does realising she's talking to the risen Jesus make to Mary?

### The Disciples' meet Jesus (v19-23)

5. What picture are we painted of the disciples before Jesus appears to them?

6. What do you think is the significance of the first thing Jesus *says* and the first thing he *does*, when he appears?
7. In v21-23, what job does Jesus give his disciples?

### Thomas meets Jesus (v24-31)

8. If you were Thomas, how would you have felt when all the others said they had seen Jesus?
9. On both occasions, the doors were locked, yet Jesus stood among them. What does this tell us about the nature of Jesus' resurrection body?!
10. What does Jesus' conversation with Thomas (v27-29) show us-
  - about Jesus' presence with the disciples in v25?
  - about how reasonable his disbelief had been?
  - about the right response to Jesus' resurrection?
11. v31 is the climax of John's gospel. What was the big purpose of Jesus' coming? What was the big purpose of John writing his gospel?

## Getting ahead for next time– Romans 8:1–17

Intro question: When do we feel most guilty in life?

### Romans 8:1-4

1. In v1, what is the verdict, and who is it for?
2. Why is there no longer any condemnation for those 'in Christ'?
3. What is the result of Jesus' death for those who trust him? (v4)
4. When you mess up, and sin, how do you tend to think God views you? How do these verses correct our thinking?

### Romans 8:5-11

Paul has explained that for those 'in Christ', they have been rescued from the penalty of sin (condemnation). From v5 he goes on to explain that they have also been rescued from the power of sin to dominate their lives. This happens through the work of the Holy Spirit.

5. In v2, Paul explains that it is the Spirit who brings people into the new life that Jesus has won for us. What two groups of people are contrasted in v5-8?
6. For us, what might it look like to 'live according to the Spirit', or to 'live according to the sinful nature'?
7. According to v9, what is true for every Christian?
8. What future hope is there for those with the Spirit?

## Romans 8:12-17

9. What different implications of having God's Spirit are spelled out in these verses?

## Some further application

10. Chat, either as a group, or pairs, about the ways you experience the Spirit's work, as described in this passage as a whole
11. Why is it such good news that we have been rescued both from the penalty of sin (through Christ's death), *and* from the power of sin (through the Spirit)?

# Tracing God's call to be distinctive through the Bible

Throughout the Bible, God calls his people to be **distinctive** from the world around them. Today, he empowers us to do this by the Spirit in our lives. But his call has always been the same- 'don't be like the world around you!'

- **Leviticus 18:3-4.** What does God call his people to once he's rescued them from Egypt?
- **Jeremiah 10:1-5** What are the people living in the land warned against?
- **2 Kings 17:15** What did the people in the land fail to do?
- **Matthew 5:13-16** What does Jesus call his followers to?
- **Romans 12:2** What does Paul warn Christian believers against?

# For the book-worms

<i>God's Big Picture</i>	Vaughan Roberts	A book tracing out the big story-line of the Bible.
--------------------------	-----------------	---

## Prayer points