**Table Talk**

**Sermon Series: Alive—Dawn of a New Day**

**New Power** **4-25-2021**

**Introduction (5 minutes):**

Table Talk Groups (45-minute study) begin by watching the video and sharing the story below, then open up the discussion with the questions provided.

Southside Home (35-minute study) can skip to “Starting the Discussion” as a follow up to the worship experience.

**Table Talk Video: Alive – New Power:**

Today, we are wrapping up our series, Alive—Dawn of a New Day. We’ve learned how Jesus gives us a new beginning, new hope, new peace, and today, new power through his resurrection. In Christ we can experience his overcoming power.

“It’s just going to die,” my friend warned as she handed me a plant she had received as a gift. “You take it home and keep it. You’ve got a green thumb.” I wasn’t sure about the green thumb, but I didn’t mind taking the plant home and giving it some attention to see if I could save it. The poor thing was in bad shape. The leaves were yellowing and the stems were browning, but I was willing to give it a try.

I looked over the little plant and noticed the roots were too wet so I repotted it. The new pot had better drainage to keep the plant moist but not soggy. The new soil I used was infused with fertilizer to energize the plant and promote healthy growth. After repotting the plant, I then gave it a little water and placed it on my windowsill where it could receive some sunlight. It would take a little time before I was able to see whether or not it would survive.

Within a few weeks I began to see signs of life. The plant looked better. Soon there was new growth and after a couple of months it was thriving again. My experience with this plant reminds me of a time in my life when I invited Jesus to come into my heart and save me. I realized I had no spiritual life. I was going through some difficult circumstances and I was in desperate need of help to change them.

A friend reached out and told me about Christ. She shared how he had died for me, was buried and he rose from the dead so I could be saved and find new life. I believed this was true. I prayed and Jesus saved me. Through the years I’ve learned God doesn’t just desire to save us so we can go to heaven one day. Like the plant, he desires to bring us into the Son’s light, teach us to grow, and cause us to thrive in his resurrection power so we can walk in victory in this life and in the life to come.

--Carla Pollard

**Prayer (1 minute)**

Dear Father, help us to know and experience resurrection power in our lives. Help us to lay hold of the victory and all that Jesus obtained for us through his death, burial and resurrection. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**Starting the Discussion (2-5 minutes)**

1. Explain how you think the concepts of the victim/survivor differ from that of the victor/conqueror.

**Unfolding the Biblical Story (28 minutes)**

**Invite someone to read Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:5-14.**

1. What does it mean to you knowing you died with Christ and he lives in you?
2. From these passages describe all the benefits we receive through our union with Christ’s death and resurrection.
3. Explain in your own words what Romans 5:11 means.
4. How do we obtain the victory (power) over sin so that it becomes a reality in daily struggle with sin?

**Read Romans 8:35-39; 1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 2:14; Philippians 4:13.**

1. Does victory in Christ seem like a foreign concept in your life? If so, why?
2. What would you say to the Christian who feels alienated from God because of their failures?
3. How would you describe the love of God to someone who feels hopeless and rejected by God?
4. In your own life, describe a time when you felt empowered by God to overcome a situation or temptation.

**Prayer (2 minutes)**

Dear Father, thank you for the overcoming victory we have in Christ, who died or us and was raised for our justification. Help us to thrive in his resurrection power so that we can be a witness to others, bearing fruit in his image, and living a victorious life by his Spirit. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**Wrapping Up (2 minutes)**

See if anyone has any other questions or insights. Then summarize the group discussion as a reminder of what you’ve learned together.

**Scripture Challenge (1-2 minutes)**

This week try to memorize **Romans 8:35-39**. Take a few minutes to practice/repeat these together as a group. Find a way to make it matter! Keep the words of Jesus before you this week as you share His message with others.