**Table Talk**

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

**New Beginning**

**4-4-2021**

**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 – Dawn of a New Day**

In our new sermon series this week we learned we too can be made alive through the resurrection. We can have better life through a personal relationship with Jesus. A new beginning awaits us. A new day filled with meaning, freed by grace, and fueled by supernatural power.

Maybe you’ve heard me mention my dog, Zoe. She came into my life soon after my son left home. I loved Zoe and was determined to be a responsible pet owner. I did everything I could to make sure this little dog was well-cared for. I chose not to have her spayed even though it was recommended. I wanted Zoe to experience her life to the fullest. I wanted her to bear pups. I wasn’t in it for the money, mind you. I simply wanted my dog to know the joy of propagating. I know. I’m weird.

Well, Zoe had her chance. I became friends with a local dog groomer/sitter, Tonja, and she had the perfect male for Zoe. After I said a few vows over the two, puppies were in our future.

I stayed with Zoe when it was close to time for her to deliver. Finally, one Wednesday night she seemed a little fidgety and I thought this might be the night. I was right.

Zoe went into the master bath and in the dark began to have her puppies. When I checked on her, I found she was laboring to deliver two at the same time. I could tell one was alive, the other unresponsive. She quickly began cleaning the living pup; I began to try and help the other. He was still and cold. I called the vet. No help. I called Tonja. She told me to grab a towel and just begin rubbing the pup. She rushed right over.

When Tonja arrived, she took the lifeless pup from my hands and began vigorously rubbing it. Then she did something I never expected. She blew into its nostrils. As she breathed the breath of life into that lifeless pup, he roused. He was alive! I couldn’t believe it. It had been at least 15 minutes since his birth, yet here he was, breathing and moving. We placed him with Zoe, and she cared for him.

The years have passed but whenever I think of Zoe and her pups, I think of how Tonja rescued one from death by breathing life into him. That is the same thing God does for us. God breathes life into us, not only at our birth into this world, but at our spiritual birth when we ask Jesus to come into our hearts and bring new life.

God makes us spiritually alive with Christ so that we may live a better life here and live forever in Heaven with him.

Jesus is alive, and he brings the hope of new life to us.

--Carla Pollard

**Prayer (1 minute)**

Father, Thank you for Jesus. Thank you he was willing to lay down his life for us. Thank you for his power to rise from the dead so we have hope for a new life in him. Help us to know and live in his resurrection power. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

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

1. If you could have one superpower, what would it be? Why?

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

**Invite someone to read John 10:17-18; 11:25-26 and Matthew 28:1-10.**

2. In these verses, what does Jesus say about his authority?

3. What do these verses say about his power?

4. How do you think these women felt as they headed to the tomb?

5. What would have been your first thoughts if you had been at the tomb when the angel brought the message of life and hope?

**Read I Corinthians 15:20-22, Colossians 1:26-27 and Ephesians 3:20-21**.

6. What are some promises from God we can claim because of the resurrection?

7. What has God ordained to be the foundation of our spiritual life?

8. According to these passages where does our ability to overcome the circumstances and temptations we face come from?

9. How do you think we can appropriate in our own lives this power to overcome?

**Prayer (2 minutes)**

Dear Lord, thank you for Jesus, who gives us hope for a better life. Help us overcome those areas where we doubt your promises or disobey your voice. Help us to seek the Holy Spirit’s power to transform us. 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 learned together.

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

This week try to memorize Romans 8:11. 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.