

Introduction: *Help your group members connect with the major theme.*

Ask your group members to think about the significance of their last name. Ask 3-4 members to share the meanings of their respective last names with the group.

Point 1: *Engage your group members with an illustration.*

Ravi Zacharias is an internationally known and respected Christian apologist who travels to colleges and universities talking to students and staff about the Lord. Read the following article to your students:

The words of Ravi's father cut deep. "You're a complete failure. You're an embarrassment to the family." Compared to his talented siblings, Ravi was viewed as a disgrace. He tried excelling in sports, and he did, but he still felt like a loser. He wondered, *What is going to become of me? Am I a complete failure? Can I get out of life some way, painlessly?* These thoughts haunted him, but he talked to no one. That simply wasn't done in his culture. He had been taught to "keep your private heartache private; keep your collapsing world propped up."

So Ravi struggled alone. Then while he was recovering in the hospital after a failed suicide attempt, a visitor brought him a Bible opened to John 14. His mother read these words of Jesus to Ravi: "Because I live, you also will live" (v. 19). *This may be my only hope*, he thought. *A new way of living. Life as defined by the Author of life.* So he prayed, "Jesus, if You are the one who gives life as it is meant to be, I want it."

Life can present despairing moments. But like Ravi, we can find hope in Jesus who is "the way and the truth and the life" (v. 6). God longs to give us a rich and satisfying life."

Although Ravi's father was embarrassed about him, Ravi was adopted into Jesus' family where he was and is fully accepted. Ask your class to comment on this article. Lead them to discuss in particular how God accepts those who are "unacceptable" to others.

[Source: Poh Fang Chia, "Finding Life," Our Daily Bread, January 17, 2017, <http://odb.org/2017/01/17/finding-life/>.]

Point 2: Check for understanding using “Think-Pair-Share” technique.

The main precept we focus on in this section is God’s faithful love, often manifested in spite of our unfaithfulness to Him.

Think-Pair-Share: Ask your group members the following questions: “**Think** about an incident in your life where someone was unfaithful to their word. How did that make you feel? What was your response? What is God’s response when we are unfaithful?” Now I want you to discuss this in **pairs** with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

Point 3: Help your group members understand the main idea by examining a related biblical passage.

Have each class member look up Hebrews 2:14-18 and spend a few minutes reading the passage. Ask the following questions: “Why was it important that Jesus became one of us? What did He free us from? Is this aid given to everyone? If not, then to whom? Why? How does the death of Christ help us live today?”

Conclusion: Meditate on the lesson.

Ask your students to spend a few minutes thinking over the lesson and have them identify 1-2 areas that the Lord has shown them. Have them spend a few minutes in prayer, thanking God for His provision, blessing, faithfulness, and love.

Teaching Tip of the Week

Learning is built on a foundation. Our job as teachers is to effectively build on that foundation so that learning can occur because real learning does not take place in a vacuum. Spend time thinking about your group members. What do they already know? That is, what is their foundation? Now, what do you want to add to that foundation? Ensure that you can link the two together.