

LIFE Meeting

Personal Resurrections

April 2, 2014

1. Icebreaker—Headbands
2. Opening Prayer
Hannah
3. Opening—*The Last Lecture*
Stephen
4. Small Group
 - Personal Definition of Resurrection
 - Dealing with the Cards your dealt
5. Large Group
6. Witness Talk
Jenny Peters
7. Large Group
 - Write a personal reflection on personal resurrection
8. Super Small Group
 - Share personal reflections
9. Transition
John
10. Closing Prayer
Sarah

Next Meeting: May 7th

CORE Team:

- Planning meeting on 9th (Start Time—5:30)
- Topic: Breaking Out of Your Shell/Openness

Icebreaker

Ships and Sailors

http://www.teampedia.net/wiki/index.php?title=Captain%27s_Coming!

Assign one person to be the "Captain." The role of the Captain is call out the actions and dismiss the players who don't do the actions quick enough or who break from character. Once the captain calls an action, each player has 3-4 seconds to start performing the action. If they don't find a group fast enough or perform the right action, they are out of the game.

Here is an explanation of each of the actions...

- **Captain's Coming!**: Everyone stands at "attention" (in a salute), and they can't move from this position until the caller says, "At Ease!" If they laugh or break from the attention, they are dismissed.
- **Ships**: Players run to the right.
- **Sailors**: Players run to the left.
- **Man Overboard!**: One person drops to one knee the other stands behind them, puts one foot on their back. Both scan the ocean for the overboard man
- **Mermaid!**: each player individually thrust out right hip, places right hand on that hip, takes left hand and makes a big exaggerated wave and yells out "howdy sailor!" (this one is basically for your own entertainment as it looks hilarious and it gets the participants laughing)
- **3 men rowing**: 3 players. Get in a line and pretend to row a boat while singing "row row row your boat".
- **5 men eating**: 5 players. Get in a circle and pretend to eat.
- **Hit the deck!**: fall to the floor on your stomach

Chapter 3

Jai was already in the hall—an unexpected full house of 400—and as I hopped on stage to check out the podium and get organized, she could see how nervous I was. While I busied myself arranging my props, Jai noticed that I was making eye contact with almost no one. She thought that I couldn't bring myself to look in the crowd, knowing I might see a friend or former student I'd be too overwhelmed by the emotion of that eye contact.

There was a rustling in the audience as I got myself ready. For those who came to see just what a man dying of pancreatic cancer looked like, surely there were questions: Was that my real hair? (Yes, I kept all my hair through chemotherapy) Would they be able to sense how close to death I was as I spoke? (My answer: "Just watch!")

Even with the talk only minutes away, I continued pattering at the podium, deleting some slides, rearranging other. I was still working at it when I was given the signal. "We're ready to go," someone told me. I wasn't in a suit, I wore no tie. I wasn't going to get up there in some professorial tweed jacket with leather elbow patches. Instead, I had chosen to give my lecture wearing the most appropriate childhood-dream garb I could find in my closet.

Granted, at first glance I looked like the guy who'd take your order at a fast-food drive through. But actually, the logo on my short-sleeved polo shirt was an emblem of honor because it's the one worn by Walt Disney Imagineers—the artists, writers and engineers who create theme-park fantasies. In 1995, I spent a six-month sabbatical as an Imagineer. It was a highlight of my life, the fulfillment of a childhood dream. That's why I was also wearing the oval "Randy" name badge given to me when I worked at Disney. I was paying tribute to that life experience, and to Walt Disney himself, who famously had said, "If you can dream it, you can do it."

I thanked the audience for coming, cracked a few jokes, and then I said: "In case there's anybody who wandered in and doesn't know the back story, my dad always taught me that when there's an elephant in the room, introduce it. If you look at my CT scans, there are approximately ten tumors in my liver, and the doctors told me I have three to six months of good health left. That was a month ago, so you can do the math."

I flashed a giant image of the CT scans of my liver onto the screen. The slide was headlined "The Elephant in the Room," and I had helpfully inserted red arrows pointing to each of the individual tumors.

I let the slide linger, so the audience could follow the arrows and count my tumors. "All right," I said. "That is what it is. We can't change it. We just have to decide how we'll respond. We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand."

In that moment, I was definitely feeling healthy and whole, the Randy of old, powered no doubt by adrenaline and the thrill of a full house. I knew I looked pretty healthy, too, and that some people might have trouble reconciling that with the fact that I was near death. So I addressed it. "If I don't seem as depressed or morose as I should be, sorry to disappoint you," I said, and after people laughed, I added: "I assure you I am not in denial. It's not like I'm not aware of what's going on."

My family—my three kids, my wife—we just decamped. We bought a lovely house in Virginia, and were doing that because that's a better place for the family to be down

the road." I showed a slide of the new suburban home we'd just purchased. Above the photo of the house was the heading: "I am not in denial."

My point: Jai and I had decided to uproot our family, and I had asked her to leave a home she loved and friends who cared about her. We had taken the kids away from their Pittsburgh playmates. We had packed up our lives, throwing ourselves into a tornado of our own making, when we could have just cocooned in Pittsburgh, waiting for me to die. And we had made this move because we know that once I was gone Jai and the kids would need to live in a place where her extended family could help them and love them.

I also wanted to audience to know that I looked good, and felt OK, in part because my body had started to recover from the debilitating chemotherapy and radiation my doctors had been giving me. I was now on the easier-to-endure palliative chemo. "I am in phenomenally good health right now," I said. "I mean, the greatest thing of cognitive dissonance you will ever see is that I am in really good shape. In fact, I am in better shape than most of you."

I moved sideways toward center stage. Hours earlier, I wasn't sure I'd have the strength to do what I was about to do, but now I felt emboldened and potent. I dropped to the floor and began doing push-ups.

In the audience's laughter and surprised applause. It was almost as if I could hear everyone collectively exhaling their anxiety. It wasn't just some dying man. It was just me. I could begin.

Points

- "We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand."
- Background on The Last Lecture and Randy Pausch
- Pascal Mystery - Passion, Death, and Resurrection
- We don't always have control over what happens to us, but we do have control over how we respond.
- Connect quote and Pascal Mystery to personal resurrection

Small Group

Dealing with the Cards you have been dealt.

Scripture

Hold hands and interlock fingers so that all the weaknesses in the group are covered by each other's strengths.

2Corinthians 5: 16-21

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God

Reflection

In this passage, God is telling us that whoever is in Christ is a new creation. Sometimes we run away from God, but when we come back to him through prayer and reconciliation, we are born again; a new beginning. Different situations that may happen in your life might bring up anger or maybe doubt in the Lord, but he is the one who will ultimately help you through those situations. Put your trust in Our Lord, he will help you to overcome hard times.

Instructions

First discuss everyone's personal definition of resurrection.

Card Activity

Have one person pick a card out of the stack, and read aloud to the group. That person then shares how they would feel/how they would respond and what kind of an impact it would have on their life, keeping in mind how it could impact several events down the line. After the individual has shared their thoughts, pose the following questions to the whole group. Then the next person picks a card. Continue until you have gone through the whole stack.

Small Group Questions:

1. Would you respond differently to this situation?
2. How can this situation be an example of a personal resurrection?

Large Group

Comments/questions about the various situations that were discussed?

Personal Resurrections

<p>Divorce</p> <p>Your parents sit you down and explain that they have decided to get a divorce.</p>	<p>Encountering Death</p> <p>You are at a park and discover a person who has committed suicide.</p>	<p>Reconnecting with Family</p> <p>Your aunt has had no contact with your family for as long as you can remember. On your 13th birthday she reaches out and wants to reconnect with the family</p>
<p>Strengthening Faith</p> <p>You go on a full week retreat and become stronger in your faith</p>	<p>Parent Losing a Job</p> <p>One of your parents is laid off and loses the job that supports your family.</p>	<p>Grandparent Dying</p> <p>A grandparent dies that you have been close to your whole life.</p>
<p>Miscarriage</p> <p>You are so excited for your mom/sister/etc to have a new baby, but 3 months into the pregnancy you find out that the baby was miscarried.</p>	<p>Winning the Lottery</p> <p>Your family wins the lottery and your financial worries are over.</p>	<p>Cancer Remission</p> <p>After battling cancer, a family member is declared clear of the illness.</p>
<p>Car Accident</p> <p>You get in a bad car accident that not only totals your car, but hospitalizes the passengers. You feel guilty because the accident was your fault.</p>	<p>College</p> <p>You find out that the college you really want to go to has accepted you, but you are not receiving any financial aid.</p>	<p>New Baby</p> <p>Your mom/sister/cousin/etc. let you know that they will be having a baby</p>

<p>Developmentally Delayed</p> <p>You are so excited for your new family member to be born today, but you find out that the baby is developmentally delayed.</p>	<p>Goodbye Friend</p> <p>Your long-time best friend moves away and you feel abandoned and alone.</p>	<p>Sick Pet</p> <p>Your pet is so sick that you find out it must be put down</p>
<p>Growing Closer to God</p> <p>After a long time of struggling with your faith, you finally feel closer to God and in touch with your faith.</p>	<p>Faith Struggles</p> <p>After many unfortunate happenings in your life, you start to believe that God must not exist if there is so much pain and hurt in the world.</p>	<p>Teen pregnancy</p> <p>You find out your teenage sibling/cousin/etc. is going to be a parent, and this will jeopardize their life plans.</p>
<p>College 2</p> <p>After countless applications and many weeks of waiting, you find out that the college you've been wanting to go to has accepted and you've received a large scholarship that will make your college dreams come true.</p>	<p>New Job/Move</p> <p>Your parents tell you that your dad got a big promotion, but it entails you moving to a different state.</p>	<p>Summer Job</p> <p>A friend of your parents offers you a summer job working in their office. You will be making good money, but you will not be with your friends.</p>

Transition

Everyone has to deal with the ups and downs in life. You never know what cards you will be dealt. You can't always choose what happens to you but, the thing you can choose is your attitude towards the situation. Everyone should strive to learn from the things that happen to you and become a better person at the end of the day.

Closing Prayer

Cannonball

Lea Michele

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA4h9FJCM0M>

Break down
Break down
Break down

I was scared to death I was losing my mind
Break down
I couldn't close my eyes I was pacing all night
I think I found the light out the end of the tunnel
I couldn't find the truth I was going under

But I won't hide inside
I gotta get out, gotta get out
Gotta get out, gotta get out
Lonely inside and light the fuse
Light it now, light it now, light it now

And now I will start living today
Today, today I close the door
I got this new beginning and I will fly
I'll fly like a cannonball
Like a cannonball
Like a cannonball
I'll fly, I'll fly, I'll fly like a cannonball

Freedom
I let go of fear and the peace came quickly
Freedom
I was in the dark and then it hit me
I chose suffering and pain in the falling rain
I know, I gotta get out into the world again

But I won't hide inside
I gotta get out, gotta get out
Gotta get out, gotta get out
Lonely inside and light the fuse
Light it now, light it now, light it now

And now I will start living today
Today, today I close the door

I got this new beginning and I will fly
I'll fly like a cannonball
Like a cannonball
Like a cannonball
I'll fly, I'll fly, I'll fly like a cannonball

Break down
I was scared to death I was losing my mind
Break down
I gotta get out into the world again

And now I will start living today
Today, today I close the door
I got this new beginning and I will fly
I'll fly like a cannonball
Like a cannonball
Like a cannonball
I'll fly, I'll fly, I'll fly like a cannonball
Like a cannonball
Like a cannonball
I'll fly, I'll fly, I'll fly like a cannonball

Reflection

We all like to feel in control of our lives, but sometimes the circumstances don't allow us to have control. Things happen that redirect our path, both good and bad, and often it is first instinct to hide away. Maybe it's a parents' divorce, the death of a loved one, illness, bullying, and the list goes on and on. But, in the end, we can make it past anything that we deal with. What matters more than the actual occurrence is learning how to react to it. It's important not to hide inside, but to take advantage of a new beginning and rise from the ashes.