**COME ALIVE PT. 3**

**TAKING OFF THE GRAVE CLOTHES BIBLE APPLICATION**

**Memory Verse:**

***“…Put off your old self, …be made new in the attitude of your mind, and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV)***

1. One of the most important points in this teaching is the power of words we receive, believe, speak to ourselves, and speak to others. The Scripture tells us “life and death are in the power of the tongue.” Everything we hear or say has the power to either quicken or deaden. Can you think of an example of a word spoken to you that was like a “Lazarus come out of the grave” word that brought life to you?

2. The words we believe about our identity are especially important in putting off our grave clothes. We change not according to our ability but according to our identity. Jesus brought people to life by seeing them and speaking to them according to their destiny not their history. What is an example of an area where you believe God wants you to believe and receive your new identity?

a. In the area of my appearance

b. In the area of my competence, what I’m capable of

c. In the area of my future, what I can expect will happen

d. In the area of my value and worth

e. In the area of my righteousness, that I am not what my past says I am or what people have told me I am

3. It is interesting that though Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, he didn’t unwrap Lazarus, but told the disciples to do it. Why might they have been hesitant to do so? How is reaching out to hurting people like the disciples’ unwrapping Lazarus? Have you ever been hesitant to get involved with hurting people because it’s messy and time consuming? How has God used other people to help unwrap you?

Describe where you can identify needing help to be unwrapped.

a. When I’ve blown it and find it hard to forgive myself

b. When I think I’m not smart enough or strong enough to handle a situation

c. When I want to forgive but feel too hurt to really do anything

d. When I feel I have gifts but lack the confidence to try to use them

e. When I’m stuck in a rut or habit that I need the strength of prayers and accountability to overcome

4. Take a 3x5 card or a piece of paper. On one side write, “the enemy has said to me.” On the other side write, “I believe God wants to say to me.” Take some time to list lies and ask the Holy Spirit to help you articulate the truth about those lies. Share this with the group. Take time to unwrap each other by speaking love and truth.