



## Owning Your Success

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### Historical Context

<sup>34</sup> “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35-NIV)

Please review the following fundamental Christian faith-based beliefs with participants before starting *“Raising PreTeens Right”* © Personal Development Program and Curriculum. Students must understand fundamental premises and concepts, including that they were created by God, and Jesus has always been a part of God. People are born into a sinful world, as this was inherited from the original sin of Adam and Eve. This curriculum relies on the spiritual belief that students recognize the truth in Jesus and how Jesus came to earth, not as a king.

Jesus was willing to come to earth for people and in doing so:

- Took the penalty for each person’s wrongdoing or sin nature. This curriculum program acknowledges that no one is perfect; therefore, occasionally, everyone else will slip up, feel discomfort and inner conflict, have unpleasant thoughts, be tempted, behave poorly, be dishonest, and have conflict with others. These experiences are an inevitable part of being human.
- Was persecuted by others. Jesus was outcasted, mistreated, punished, battered, and tortured for his beliefs beyond comprehension. Through all His unimaginable suffering and affliction, Jesus was unwavering in his relationship with His Father, God. His biggest fear was not the brutal and inhumane treatment he was subjected to from others. His biggest fear was being separated from His Father, God, and not being with Him in eternity.
- Died for you. Jesus died on the cross to atone, repair or make amends for our human nature of imperfection, or sin nature. He wants people to believe in Him as the Son of God who died for humankind, believing this is the only way to achieve salvation and eternal life. Believing in salvation, one understands that Jesus delivers one from evil. This means that you are free in Jesus and that bad or evil can no longer have a hold over you.



- Was resurrected for you. Jesus physically died on the cross and then rose from the dead. He did this for you to be forgiven and to have life. Jesus conquered physical death to demonstrate that He is the Son of God and Lord of all. He wants people to understand that his blood saves people from their wrongdoings or sins and that people who believe in Him are forgiven. His resurrection is also a way for us to know that He is trustworthy, and His words, teachings, and promises are true.
- Broke the power of death.

It is important to realize that there are no actions you can take and no amount of work you can do to earn salvation. Jesus did all the work for you. Salvation is a gift for you to accept. Your efforts are related to believing in Jesus. All you need to do is believe; hence, you are a “believer”. The bible tells you that, <sup>29</sup>*Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” (John 6:29-NIV)* In this, you understand that humans do not have a higher authority than Jesus. Other people had no authority over Jesus, insofar as to separate his faithful relationship with God, even during experiencing agony while being tortured physically, mentally, and emotionally in the worst possible ways imaginable. Jesus teaches you that nothing from the earthly or cultural world could persuade Him from upholding the utmost important decision of His life, which is His dedication to His Heavenly Father. No amount of temporary wealth, material riches, possessions, status, power, or approval from others interfered with his devotion to God. It is a gamechanger when your spirit starts to realize that no amount of temporary cultural rewards can compare to the power and freedom of the everlasting reward of spending eternity with God. You become less attached to the ways of other people or the ways of the culture when you understand that Jesus is the truth. <sup>6</sup>*Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6-NIV)*

Jesus teaches people to surrender all of life’s circumstances to God, who makes everything new in Him, as He revealed this truth through His faith and resurrection. Having faith and trusting God changes the meaning and purpose of your life to one that honors God above all else earthly. Your relationship and faith in Jesus supersede all else and has the power to renew you, making all things new in Him.

