

# Our Glorious New Bodies

1 Corinthians 15:35-57

## **MEMORY VERSE**

1 CORINTHIANS 15:49

And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

A banana.

Seeds and corresponding plants.

Pinto beans, paper cups, and paper towels.

## **ATTENTION GRABBER!**

### **Banana Bodies?**

Use a banana as an illustration of the body and the soul. As you peel the banana, explain that the peel is just a temporary house for the banana. The real valuable part of the fruit is what's inside.

Tell your class that our spirits live inside our bodies and when we know Jesus they are brought to life by His Holy Spirit. Our bodies are just temporary, but our spirits will last forever. One day we will get new, eternal bodies in heaven. We are going to learn more about these bodies in our lesson today.

## **LESSON TIME!**

Have you ever wondered about going to heaven? Are we going to just be floating spirits or angels flying around with a harp? The Bible says we are going to have bodies, heavenly, eternal bodies. Not ones that will get old, or sick, or die, but ones that will live forever. **God has prepared new bodies in heaven for His children.**

To see what our heavenly bodies are going to be, we should look to Jesus and His resurrected body. He was able to eat, walk, and talk just like us, but He also was able to appear and disappear. Jesus has told us that we are going to be like Him.

When we die, it will be like taking off our old weak body, and putting on a new one that God has made just for us. Can you imagine a time when there will be no more sickness, pain or death? That is what eternity in our new bodies will be like. **God has prepared new bodies in heaven for His children.**

### **1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-36**

**But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?"**

**Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.**

The church in Corinth had some questions about what their new body will be like. They asked the question, "How are the dead raised up?" Have you ever wondered what will happen when you die? It is something that many people think about. The Lord wants us to understand what will happen.

Paul compares the resurrection to a seed and a plant. You have to put a seed in the ground to grow a plant. When it is buried it is kind of like it has died. But new life springs forth from the seed to make a new plant. The seed is very different from the plant that grows from it, but necessary nonetheless. Like the seeds and plants that grow from them, our resurrection bodies will be very different from the bodies we now have. **God has prepared new bodies in heaven for His children.**

### **1 CORINTHIANS 15:37-38**

**And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain--perhaps wheat or some other grain.**

**But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.**

When you sow a plant you don't plant a grown flower. It has to start with a seed. The plant will be what God has decided for it to be. You can't plant a flower seed and get a tomato or a rose plant and get a fruit tree. Each seed is of its own kind.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 15:39**

**All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fish, and another of birds.**

Just like each plant is not the same, flesh is not the same. God made each after its own kind. A bird can't be a fish or a cow a person. When a man dies, he will not come back as a dog or a cat. The kind of flesh we are determines what body we will have in eternity. As a person now, if we believe in Jesus Christ we have been born again in our spirit. When we die, or when Jesus comes to take us in the rapture, we will receive a brand new body and live forever with Jesus.

### **Seed of a Different Color**

You will need seeds and corresponding plants to illustrate how different the plant is from the seed. Pictures out of books can work just as well.

Illustrate the difference between the seeds and the plants by showing your class examples of several different seeds and corresponding plants. See if any can match up the seeds and plants without any help. It will be pretty difficult.

Explain that our resurrection bodies will be as different from our earthly bodies as those seeds are from their plants.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 15:40-41**

**There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.**

**There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.**

Just like a plant or animal or a person is not the same, our heavenly body is going to be different than our earthly body. In the heavens the sun, the moon, and the stars are all different, so our new heavenly bodies will be different from our earthly bodies.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 15:42-44**

**So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.**

**It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.**

**It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.**

When we rise from the dead, our bodies will be different than our earthly bodies; they will be eternal. There will be no sickness or death. We were first born in sin, which leads to sickness and death, but through Jesus, we will be raised in a glorious spiritual body that will never die.

Our earthly bodies will die, but with Jesus we will raise to eternal life. We will not be like a floating spirit. Just like now we have a fleshy body, in heaven we will have a spiritual body. **God has prepared new bodies in heaven for His children.**

So even though our bodies may die and be buried in the ground one day, the corruption, dishonor, weakness and naturalness of these bodies will be changed. They will become incorruptible, glorious, powerful and spiritual. How does that happen? By the Spirit of God! What a great promise as Christians we have. The world doesn't have that hope. They can't understand or know that hope. For them there is death and the judgment.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 15:45**

**And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.**

Adam became the first physical man but Jesus, as the last Adam, became the first eternal, life-giving spiritual man. God has a plan for our lives. We need to live to accomplish His will in our lives. However, when our time comes, heaven and our spiritual bodies are going to be more wonderful than we could ever imagine. It will be worth it all. Jesus has conquered even death. He is all-powerful. We can trust Him in life and even when we die. We are going to be like Him.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 15:47**

**The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly.**

Adam was made of the dust of the earth. Just like Adam was of the earth, we are also made of dust. If we believe and follow Jesus, we will become like Jesus and receive heavenly bodies like His. **God has prepared new bodies in heaven for His children.**

Let's remember the hope that we have in Jesus. We have new life in Him now, but also a brand new body in eternity. If you know Jesus as your Savior you have nothing to worry about in your future. You have eternal life right now and a "heavenly" prepared for eternity.

## **Plant a Seed**

You will need pinto beans, paper cups, and paper towels.

Have your students moisten a paper towel and gently wedge it into the paper cup. Have them take two or three pinto beans and put them in the cups between cup and the paper towels. Instruct them to re-moisten the paper towel every day. Within a week a bean plant should sprout.

Explain to your class that the green plants will look much different from the bean. Our heavenly bodies will look much different from our earthly bodies. **God has prepared new bodies in heaven for His children.**

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the hope and promise of the resurrection. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.