

Walk and Talk 4 - Focus on Restoration



□ **IMMEDIATE:** Look for a cross or sign/symbol of something Jesus did to restore us back to a relationship with God so that we don't have to be separated from Him.

□ **IMMEDIATE:** Look for two different animals (like a dog or a cat). If you see a dog, explain that it can't be a cat by trying really hard to be cat-like. Only God could transform a dog into a cat to give it a new nature. In the same way, we can't be sinless apart from God changing us. We cannot have a new nature by trying really hard. Only God can give us a new nature.

(Remind children that this is only an analogy and that God doesn't transform animals into other animals.)

□ **CONTINUAL:** Perhaps you will see someone repairing something, like a building or home being remodeled. Or maybe you will see someone doing yard work. Discuss how the owner is restoring the project back to its original condition, as it was designed to be in the first place. After we are saved, God works in us through the power of the Holy Spirit to conform us into the image of His Son.

□ **IMMEDIATE, CONTINUAL, FUTURE:** Relate these physical analogies of restoration to the appropriate spiritual stages. Perhaps someone you know got a new heart or had knee replacement surgery (**IMMEDIATE**). On your walk, did you see someone in a cast, on crutches, or pass a hospital? This person is being restored and made new as the body is producing new skin and tissue (**CONTINUAL**). And when people who have believed in Jesus as their Savior die, they will receive a glorified body (**FUTURE**) with no more sickness, deformity, or pain.



There are three important stages of **RESTORATION** for those who have believed in Jesus as their Savior from sin. (See Reflection Verses for support.)

*Look for parallels to these three stages of **RESTORATION** on your Walk and Talk.*

IMMEDIATE - People who believe in Jesus as their Savior from sin are immediately born again and become a new creation in Christ. Their spirit is no longer dead and separated from God, but is now alive and has **RESTORED** fellowship with God.

CONTINUAL - Through the work of the Holy Spirit, they must continually put off the ways of the old person (desires of the flesh) and put on the ways of the new person (being conformed into the likeness of Christ). This is a lifelong process of **RESTORATION**.

FUTURE - After death, those that have believed in Jesus as their Savior will be **RESTORED** completely. Struggle with sin will cease and these people will have a **RESTORED** (imperishable and glorified) body.

Think



Compare and contrast changing something we can see, like a building being rebuilt, to changing who we are on the inside (a new life in Christ).

Ponder and Pray

- Conclude by praying for your child to either receive God's grace to redeem the child, or if a child has received the Lord, have the child pray to ask the Lord to help him or her put off the old man and put on the new, as the child looks forward to **FUTURE restoration**.
- Ask your children if they have seen signs of restoration in your family's life or in someone else's life.

Reflection Verses

IMMEDIATE: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." - 2 Corinthians 5:17

CONTINUAL: "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." - Philippians 1:6 (see also Romans 8:29)

CONTINUAL: "But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator." - Colossians 3:8-10 (see also Romans 13:14 and Ephesians 4:22-24)

FUTURE: "So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 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. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body." - 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

FUTURE: "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself." - Philippians 3:20-21 (see also Philippians 3:21)