

## **PAGE FOUR – FOCUSING YOUR VISION**

**Note:** If you are starting with a new session, remind the group of the agreement to honor one another's opinions and to keep shared ideas in the group. Check in with group members regarding any research they might have completed that shows a scientific view of the life cycle, the Shroud of Turin, or other ideas covered in the previous lesson. Ask the group to share any images that represent their belief in incarnation and resurrection that they might have brought to this session.

This final page of **I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST: INCARNATION, LIFE, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION** is designed to help youth focus on both the scientific and religious view of the issues of life and death. The group will create a poster that lists statements about life and death. Prior to the beginning of the session, mark the poster board by drawing a line down the middle dividing the poster board into two columns. On one column label the top with the phrase: "Life is..." and on the other side label the top with the phrase: "Death is..."

To begin the session, open the website and review the first three pages of **I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST: INCARNATION, LIFE, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION**. Ask the group members to share one significant thing they may have learned or discovered about the issues of life and death. Discuss how they might have engaged other youth or family members in this learning and any conversations that might have occurred, either in person or in a social media setting.

Next, look at page four, **FOCUSING YOUR VISION**, and

review the information and links listed on the page. Reinforce the concept that science is tasked with discovering *how* things work and tries to provide *proof*, and religion looks at *why* things happen and looks for a *purpose*. Help the group understand that this is a basic way of looking at this issue, and that just like science and religion, their ideas will change and become more complex.

Discuss the article written by Dr. Francis Collins, and how he has changed his views from that of an atheist to that of a theist, or believer. Encourage the group to consider how looking at the issues of life and death through both lenses of science and religion have helped him to answer questions that each understanding alone could not answer.

*For an additional leader resource, listen to a podcast with Dr. Francis Collins on the ELCA “Grace Matters” website from October 28, 2007:*  
<http://www.gracematters.org/2007listen.html#October>

Next, ask the group to consider how they view life and death as a result of the learning in this lesson. Ask the group to finish the phrases listed on both columns of the poster board. Encourage the group to consider ways to respond from both a scientific and religious viewpoint. Write the responses in the appropriate columns.

Display this poster for the congregation, or have youth take pictures of their work to share with friends and family.

For additional learning, ask a member of the congregation or other source who has a career in

**medical science to come and share how they integrate their faith and scientific beliefs.**