



## TEACH IT TALK SESSION 12

This talk guide is just that: a guide. It's not intended to be a manuscript to read aloud. It's here to give you ideas, structure, and stories to blend with your personal study (Prep It) as you prepare your talk.

The content complements the other Teach It guides, allowing you to give a talk on the same topic students are studying in other settings (such as small groups) without too much overlap.

### 1. Materials (Optional)

- **Movie Trailer:** *Awakenings*, based on Oliver Sacks' memoir of the same name. This film tells the true story of a doctor (Oliver Sacks, fictionalized as Malcolm Sayer, played by Robin Williams in the movie) who in 1969 discovered beneficial effects of a new drug, L-Dopa. Sacks used this drug with catatonic patients who survived the 1917–1928 epidemic of encephalitis lethargica, a disease that left patients in a statue-like condition, speechless and motionless. In the movie, Leonard Lowe (played by Robert De Niro) and other patients are awakened after decades in a catatonic state and must deal with a new life in a new time. The trailer isn't on certain DVD versions but may be available online at video-sharing Web sites, such as <http://youtube.com/watch?v=puJCjUsgq7o>.
- A pair of crutches or a wheelchair

### 2. Optional Openings

#### MOVIE TRAILER

Briefly describe the movie *Awakenings* using the information above. Then show the trailer. Share that the entire movie is filled with scene after scene of these amazing moments that we all take for granted, as patients who are awakened after years of being in a coma experience life in a remarkable way.

#### VISUAL ILLUSTRATION

Come out to do your talk on crutches or in a wheelchair. As you begin, talk about how long it takes to do even the simplest things when you have a broken leg. It might take someone 30 seconds to tie his shoes and walk out the door, yet it would take someone with a cast on his leg 10 minutes just to put on a sock and hobble outside! Describe what it might be like to get from the front seat of a car into a wheelchair, and then into a mall. Ask students to think about how far out of their way they'd have to go to get to an elevator as opposed to just climbing the stairs. What are some things that many of us take for granted, all because we aren't on crutches or in a wheelchair?

**OPTION:** Consider doing your entire talk from the wheelchair, staying seated until you talk about what the power of the Resurrection has done for us.

### 3. Digging In

#### PERSONAL STORY

Share a story that involves a person who experienced freedom, such as:

- someone who was healed from an injury or disease
- someone who got a warning instead of a ticket from a police officer
- how you solved the problem of being locked out of your house or locking your keys in the car
- how you or someone else got away from a bad job

Here's an example:

When I was in the fifth grade, I had to get braces. I had to because of the sheer magnitude of my front two teeth. Most people would call them buckteeth—my “friends” called them truck teeth. These were large teeth. Well, I went in and had the braces attached, and then I headed back to my fifth-grade classroom with headgear in tow. And then I went into the sixth grade. The next year I entered middle school—still wearing braces. That’s when I started to really take notice of the girls in my school, and it’s when they started to notice I was always pulling food out of my braces. Not cool. And as awesome as the braces were in junior high, they were that much cooler in high school. I had these beauties in ninth, 10th, 11th grade, and even my senior year. In fact, I took them with me to college. Nine years of braces. Almost a decade of dental bondage. I can’t describe to you how badly I wanted to get rid of these things. And then it happened. It was almost surreal. I walked into the orthodontist’s office, they tugged and snipped and pulled—and I walked out with smooth teeth. It was incredible to feel just how smooth my teeth felt. It was all I did for a couple of days. I just rubbed my teeth with my tongue or my finger. I was amazed at how it felt. I felt alive again! I was a captive, and then I was free!

Continue with—

**Listen to this scene from John 20:3-8:**

**So Peter and the other disciple [John] started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.**

**Have you ever been grounded? Remember what it was like to go out after a couple of days of sitting in your room?**

**If you’ve ever had a cast on your leg, you’ve most likely had that itch moment. You go to scratch it, and you can’t quite reach it. So you go after it with a pencil, and then a coat hanger, and eventually you’re sliding a ruler down the cast trying to get to that itchy spot. It’s maddening. And then they cut the cast off! You can bend your leg again! You’d forgotten how great it feels just to walk without a crutch. To be able to walk and not hop! It’s the best.**

**Sometimes we forget how great we have it. For some of us, the idea of following a God who loves us enough to actually die on the cross for us has become common. It’s as normal as just walking around with no braces on. It’s just a reality that we’ve lived in for so long that it’s become sort of ho-hum. It’s just another day.**

**Romans 8:11 says, “And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.”**

#### **OPTIONAL MIX-INS**

You may want to mention a few points:

*-Mary Magdalene wasn’t expecting much when she went to Jesus’ tomb—she was just planning on taking care of some burial duties now that the Sabbath was over. She certainly wasn’t expecting the tomb to be empty.*

*-She ran to Peter and John, telling them that “they” had removed Jesus’ body.*

*-Peter and John bolted for the tomb, and sure enough—empty.*

*-Since John was writing this account from personal experience, he gave us a little inside knowledge of what was going on in his mind at the time. When he saw nothing but folded-up grave clothes, he “believed.”*

This means that you and I have resurrection power! In us! The same power that raised Jesus from the dead. This beats the power to hit a baseball 500 feet or a golf ball 400 yards. This means we have something better than Bill Gates' bank account or Julia Roberts' smile. We have all that resurrection power inside us. And all we need to do is the same thing John did when he poked his head into that tomb and saw the folded grave clothes: believe.

For John, everything changed that day he went running to the tomb. And when it says in John 20:8 that John saw and believed, it means that he saw and was ready to follow Jesus with everything he had. That's what the word *believe* meant in Jesus' day: to believe in a way that actually changed your behavior. John was one of the first recorded "believers" following the Resurrection. He went on to become a pillar in the church, writing three letters (1, 2, and 3 John), the book of Revelation, and of course, the Gospel of John. I'm thinking his belief in Jesus changed his behavior.

#### 4. Taking It Inward

Continue—

Maybe if we were to take some time thinking about the things God has blessed us with, it would shake things up a little. I know that focusing on the good things in life helps my attitude. I know that God calls us to think about the great things going on.

Philippians 4:8 tell us, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

God loves us enough to offer himself to us. He loves us so much that he's dying to be in a relationship with us. Maybe that's what I should focus on. Maybe that would change my outlook on the day-to-day things that drag me down.

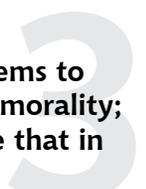
Paul had a pretty good outlook on this. God's love for him captivated him so much that his life was all about Jesus. In fact, Jesus was pretty much all he could talk about. It got so out of control that they threw him in prison, and Paul just told the prison guards about Jesus. Eventually, when they threatened to kill him, Paul merely told them that his life was Jesus, and if they wanted to kill him, he'd be the winner—because then he'd get to go and be with Jesus. Paul's exact words were: "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). What a great win-win Paul lived! What a great perspective on life! No matter what you do to me, I've got the God of the universe on my side. What are you going to do to me? Talk badly about me? Point and laugh? Take away my stuff? Kill me? Bring it on, because then I get to be with Jesus, and you can't take that away from me. I win.

#### 5. Wrapping It Up

Finish with—

Jesus' resurrection has given us freedom. It's taken the braces off our teeth [or a reference to your personal story above]. It's cut the cast off our leg. It has popped us up and out of the wheelchair. No longer are we tethered to what was holding us back, holding us down. We're alive. We're free. And we have resurrection power inside of us.

The world is desperate for this resurrection power. But when it looks at the church, it seems to see nothing like resurrection power. It sees Christians not getting along; it sees lapses in morality; at best it might see a vague resemblance of this power. I'd like to challenge us to change that in our own little corner of the world.



**Do you remember why John said he wrote about all the miraculous signs Jesus did? "...that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).**

**The fact that you can have the power of Jesus' resurrection in you is a miracle. But it will simply remain a plain old ordinary miracle if nobody knows about it or if nobody sees it. But if you let God use that resurrection power in you, it can become a miraculous sign, a miracle that leads others to believe that Jesus is the Christ, and that by believing, they will have life in his name.**