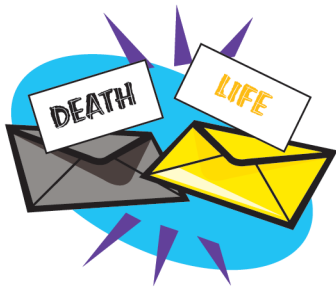


## LIFE OR DEATH?



*In a gray or black envelope place a slip of paper with the word DEATH printed on it; in a bright yellow envelope place a slip of paper with the word LIFE.*

*(Choose a Christian child ahead of time and explain what will happen. Have the child stand beside you.)*

I've got something for you, \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name). Just like you earn an allowance for jobs you do at home you have done something to earn what's in this envelope. Do you know what you've done? *(Have child respond no.)*

You have done what every person in this world has done—you have broken God's laws. God calls this *sin*. Can you give me some examples of sin? *(Let child share.)* The Bible says "all have sinned" (Rom. 3:23). We have all thought, said and done wrong things that break God's laws.

Let's see what you have earned by sinning. *(Have child open envelope and read slip with word DEATH on it.)* The Bible says, "The wages [or pay] of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). This word *death* means *separation from God*—while you are here on Earth and someday in a terrible place of punishment forever. You see, God is holy (perfect)—He never does anything wrong. And God is just—He must punish sin. All of us have earned death.

But wait, there's good news! God is also love. God, the one who created you and knows everything about you, loves you! He wants to give you something you haven't

earned, something you could never work for. Would you like to have this gift from God? *(Give envelope to child and have him read the slip with the word LIFE on it.)*

The same verse that says you and I have earned death says, "The gift of God is eternal life" (Rom. 6:23). *(Have volunteer sit down and speak to entire group.)*

This promise is for each one of you. Each of you deserves to be separated from God because of your sin! But God wants to give you eternal life. That means He wants to forgive your sin so you can be with Him here on Earth and someday in Heaven. That's His free gift to you! You did nothing to deserve it and it costs you nothing. But it did cost God's Son something.

God sent His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, from Heaven to Earth to take the punishment for *your* sins. Jesus never sinned; He did not deserve death like you do. But Jesus took *your* punishment by dying on the cross. After Jesus died He was buried. Three days later God raised Him from the dead. Today He's alive in Heaven.

Now God wants to give you the gift of eternal life. To have that gift you must choose to receive it. You can tell God you are a sinner, but you believe Jesus died for your sin. Tell Him you want Jesus as your Savior. "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

*(Provide an opportunity for children to pray and receive God's gift. Follow up with personal counseling.)*