

Survival Game

I remember it well. At a Leadership Kernersville retreat we were divided into groups and given a survival game to play. Each group was given a scenario of being on a sinking ship. We were given a list of items to choose from, and were told that we could only take with us a certain number of items to survive on a deserted island. We were asked to rank the order of importance for what we would choose and explain our choices. Our task was to figure out which items would improve our chances of survival. Each group discussed it thoroughly and then defended their choices to the larger group.

Survival games have a wide variety of settings: wilderness, mountain top, lost at sea, airplane crashes, desert and any isolated place you can imagine. The task is to make decisions on how to satisfy basic needs.

Science has its own basic list of what is needed to survive in life: water, air, food and light.

God has the ultimate role in our survival. Both science and God agree on water, air, food and light. Listen to God's perspective.

Water: While our body needs water to function, Jesus offers "living water." *On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." (John 7:37-39).*

Air: Without oxygen we cannot breathe. On the 6th day of the creation story God formed man from the dust in the ground and then breathed life in mankind. Jesus is the breath of life because all life comes from God. *And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit (John 20:22).*

Food: We need food to provide energy to power our body. In the Bible bread is such a basic food item that it is synonymous with food. Exodus 16:4 tells God rained down bread from heaven to save a nation. The first of Jesus' "I Am" statements says *"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).* While bread may satisfy our physical hunger cravings Jesus satisfies the longing in our hearts for joy and satisfying pleasure.

Light is necessary for both plant and animal life. In the beginning – the first day of the creation story -- God said "Let there be light." Jesus is the next step: In the second of seven "I Am" statements Jesus tells us, "I am the Light of the World." Light is defined as life, as seen in John 1:4, *"In Him was life; and the life was the light of men".* Those who have faith through Him will have eternal life. This "life" is a gift Jesus brought from God into a dying world. ... Those who walk in darkness do not have eternal life.

There are many other items you might include in your survival ranking system, but the Creator of all life provides the essential elements of water, air, food and light, not only to sustain you but to enrich your soul. While we might take water, air, food and light for granted on a day-to-day basis, we don't consider ourselves to be in a survival mode. In reality we *are* in survival mode. We need to sustain this life to thrive in the next – eternal life. As for me, I seek Jesus in this life as the source of living water, the breath and bread of life and the light to illuminate my path towards Him for eternity.

Prayer: Heavenly Father. You give us what we need, especially the essentials of water, air, food and light. Through your Son Jesus Christ, lead us on the path towards eternal life. Amen.

**SCIENCE SAYS THAT WE
NEED AT LEAST 4 BASIC
ELEMENTS TO SURVIVE.**

1. Water
2. Air
3. Food
4. Light

**AND LOOK WHAT THE BIBLE
TELLS US ABOUT JESUS.**

1. I am the Living Water
2. I am the Breath of Life
3. I am the Bread of Life
4. I am the Light of the World

**SCIENCE WAS RIGHT, WE
NEED JESUS TO LIVE.**

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