



So
YOU'RE
DEAD...
NOW
WHAT?

Week 1

Ice Breaker: Describe the first funeral you attended. What memories do you have? How did it affect you?

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

Hebrews 9:27 (NIV)

- Death is certain, so why is it so difficult for many of us to talk about death?
- How can this reluctance to talk about death affect the way we live?
- Think of yourself standing in the presence of Christ waiting to be judged. Looking into His eyes, describe what you might be thinking and feeling at that moment?
- Would Jesus seem more like a close friend or someone you just met? Explain your answer.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. **2 Corinthians 5:10 (NIV)**

- What things in your life right now would be a “problem” at the judgment?
- How does God want to help you to change in these areas right now?

For Further Study

Hebrews 9:11-28

Open

- What are some ways people typically try to deal with their own mortality?
- What do you imagine death being like?

Explore

- How is the heavenly tabernacle in which Christ serves as high priest described? (9:11)
- By what means did Christ enter the Most Holy Place? (9:12)
- How many times did Christ enter the Most Holy Place? (9:12)
- What ritual cleansing ceremony did a high priest typically complete before he entered the Most Holy Place? (9:13)
- To what degree was a high priest considered clean? (9:13)
- How was Christ's sacrifice on our behalf different from the usual sacrifice for sin on the Day of Atonement? (9:14)
- What benefits do believers in Christ derive from the sacrifice Christ made on their behalf? (9:14)
- What fate awaits every person? (9:27)

Reflect

- In what ways was Christ an unblemished sacrifice?
- What does it mean that Christ fully and completely satisfied God's wrath over sin and can make us right with God?
- Why do you think the author kept emphasizing that Christ's sacrifice was "once for all"?
- Even though Christ has done all these fantastic things for us, why is it so easy for us to forget?

Apply

- With whom do you want to share the good news this week of a Savior who offers forgiveness, freedom from sin, and eternal life? How?



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Week 2

Ice Breaker: If you were to bring up the subject of “hell” to friends or co-workers who are not Christ followers, what kinds of reactions might you experience?

In the book of Matthew Jesus says this about hell:

*So if your eye – even if it is your good eye – causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. **Matthew 5:29 (NLT)***

- From what Jesus says here, hell is very real and something to be avoided at all costs. So, why is it difficult for many of us to talk about hell?

*They will be punished with everlasting destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power. **2 Thessalonians 1:9 (NLT)***

- What would it be like to be “forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power”?

READ: 2 Peter 3:9

- As those who are already Christ followers, what opportunity does God’s patience give us to share His love with others?
- In addition to the reality of hell, what reality of hope can we share with those who don’t know Christ?
- Who will you reach out to this week, that might otherwise be “forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power”?

For Further Study

Luke 16:19-31

Open

What do you imagine heaven and hell will be like?

What do your friends and coworkers imagine heaven and hell will be like?

Explore

How did Jesus describe the rich man in the story? (16:19)

What does the story tell us about Lazarus? (16:20)

What role did angels play in this story? (16:22)

Where did the angels take Lazarus? (16:22)

What difference did the rich man's wealth make in his eternal destiny? (16:22-23)

What does this parable reveal about heaven and hell? (16:22-31)

What did the rich man see from his place in hell? (16:23)

How did Abraham respond to the request of the rich man? (16:25)

Why did the rich man want Lazarus to go to his father's house on earth? (16:27-28)

What did the rich man think was necessary to convince his brothers to believe? (16:30)

Reflect

How does this story affect your understanding of the afterlife?

What have you learned from this parable about the eternal value of material possessions?

What things do you think have eternal value?

Why does God not always provide miracles to help people believe in Him?

Apply

In the next few days, how can you demonstrate your thankfulness to the Lord for His provision of eternal life?

How many people like Lazarus do you know who could benefit from your compassion today?



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Week 3

Ice Breaker: What activities (hiking, biking, golf, etc.) do you enjoy here on earth that you hope you'll also get to do in heaven? How might the experience be even better in heaven?

In the book of Matthew Jesus says this about heaven:

You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose the easy way.

Matthew 7:13 (NLT)

- This passage says that the gate to heaven is narrow. How could someone who is choosing the easy way be deceived into believing they were going to heaven?
- What do you think are some common misconceptions about heaven?

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)

- How does this verse affect your ideas of what heaven will be like?

READ: Revelation 21:4-5

- What pain are you experiencing today that will be absent in heaven? Does that help you in dealing with the pain? Why or why not?
- How does your understanding of what heaven will be like affect your life right now?

For Further Study

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Open

What do you imagine heaven will be like?

What common cliches do you frequently hear when people talk about heaven?

Explore

What can Christians look forward to? (5:1)

How could Paul feel confident in the face of ill health and death? (5:1-10)

Why did Paul long for heaven? (5:2-3)

For what purpose has God made us? (5:4-5)

How does the Spirit guarantee what is to come? (5:5)

What is true as long as we are alive on this earth? (5:6)

How is the Christian life lived? (5:7)

What should be the believer's goal? (5:9)

Who will be judged by Christ? (5:10)

Why must we all appear before the judgment seat of Christ? (5:10)

What will people receive at the judgment seat of Christ? (5:10)

Reflect

How can Christ be glorified through the weaknesses of men and women?

What does it mean to live by faith and not by sight?

What comfort or satisfaction can we derive from knowing that the

Holy Spirit guarantees our future in heaven?

How should we regard death?

Apply

In what small way can you detach yourself from worldly things?

What things do you need to leave behind today instead of waiting until the end?



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Week 4 - FAQ's

Ice Breaker: If you could have the answer to any question about what happens after you die, what would it be? Why?

In the book of Hebrews we find this passage about heaven:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

- Do you believe people in heaven can see what is happening on earth? Why or why not?

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6 (NIV)

- Christ followers are sometimes accused of being narrow minded when they say there is only one way to get to heaven. How would you respond if you were accused of being narrow minded for believing this?
- Do you believe we will remember our lives when we are in heaven? Why or why not?

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Romans 10:13-14 (NIV)

- What do you think happens to people who have never heard about Jesus?
- What step can your group take this week to introduce more people to Jesus and the hope of heaven?

For Further Study

Revelation 7:9-15

Open

What are some things about earth you won't miss in heaven?

Explore

- Where did John see a great gathering of people? (7:9)
- What were the people John saw wearing and holding? (7:9)
- What was the crowd before the throne saying? (7:10)
- What group was around the throne worshipping? (7:11)
- What were the angels, the elders, and the four creatures saying to God and about God? (7:12)
- Who spoke to John and what did this person say? (7:13)
- How did John respond to the elder's question? (7:14)
- What is the main job of the believers who had survived? (7:15)

Reflect

- What does it mean to you that "a great multitude" will serve God day and night in His heavenly temple?
- What is the difference between singing a hymn and singing an ordinary song?
- What is the significance of the fact that the angels and elders around the throne of God fall down and worship God?
- What new insights into the character of God does this passage give you?

Apply

What step can you take this week to praise and thank God more consistently?