

What Happens When I Die...

Discussion Guide

Week of May 28, 2023 – “How Now Shall I Die...”

Scripture verse: [Philippians 1:18-26](#)

LOOKING BACK:

Begin this week’s study by following up on last week’s challenge to “wear” one of the character traits listed in Colossians 3:12-14. You can remind each member what trait they chose at last week’s meeting from your notes. If you do not have your notes, ask the member to remind the group what trait they chose. What difference did being more compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, or patient make in your daily life over the past week?

Making a choice to change is fairly simple; but, following through on that commitment to change can be tough. One way to become more Christ-like is to continue to dig deeper into who He is. The best way to do that is through reading His Word. How did your group fare with reading through the book of Colossians? What did they learn that was new to them? What part of the passage was particularly meaningful to them? Ask them to share any obstacles they faced. What changes might they consider to help them spend time in His Word daily.

LEADER TIP: Remember to encourage your group members even in the small victories. Even those who have been disciples for many years sometimes fail in some way ~~to be perfect~~. If we get discouraged at small missteps, it is easy to quit altogether. Consider sharing a time when you have fallen short and what you did to get back on track. Missteps are not failures but learning opportunities. Seeing a leader, someone you may consider as more mature in his or her walk,

struggling with “getting it right” can do a lot to keep someone from deciding they are not good enough.

OPENING QUESTION: Think about your journey toward discipleship. Everyone’s story is different...how you came to know Christ, what led you to accepting the gift of salvation, and what has happened since then. Maybe your story is one of ease: things have gone very well for you since that decision and you have experienced many blessings; or, maybe your story is a bit more complicated, fraught with difficulties and challenges that have already put your faith to the test. How has your faith and trust in the Lord been affected by how your journey has unfolded?

LOOKING UP:

Begin by praying for your time together this week. Ask the Holy Spirit to awaken a new awareness of God’s presence in each member. Ask Him to give each member a keen sense to hear God’s word and direction for them.

Last week, we dove into how we are to live in light of Jesus’ gift of salvation. Colossians 3 outlined for us some behaviors that are displeasing to God and laid out some characteristics that help us become more like Him.

READ THE PASSAGE (Philippians 1:18-26)	1. What stood out to you most? 2. What was challenging or hard to understand?	RE-READ THE PASSAGE
		Read passage again using another Bible

Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage	3. What does this teach us about God? 4. What does this teach us about people?	translation... then answer the last 2 questions
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Have a group member read this week’s passage found in Philippians 1:18-26. Ask that person to jump into your discussion by answering questions 1 & 2 below. Following those 1st two questions re-read the same passage in a different Bible version, then answer questions 3 and 4.

LOOKING FORWARD:

Because of what Jesus has done, we can embrace our physical death as a reality and not live in fear or dread. We can also grieve the death of others with hope. Scripture and history point to the Christian's distinct way of facing death as a strong witness to the world of the transforming hope we have in the gospel. Our attitude toward and approach to death can show the world the hope we have in Jesus transforms not only life here and life with God forever, but also death in between.

How has this sermon series impacted the way you look at your own death? At your eternal security? And your view of eternity with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

As you prepare to close out your meeting with prayer, challenge your group to continue reading a chapter a day in the Bible. With the next sermon series being on the “One Another” statements, **suggest reading 1 Thessalonians, 1 Peter, Ephesians, or Galatians.** Have group members pair off and set up a time and a means to contact one another to

encourage each other in their Bible reading this week. Discuss any areas they have found interesting or challenging and to pray for one another.

Close your meeting in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to stir a response to Jesus' life-saving sacrifice. Ask for protection of the accountability partnerships that are being formed, and for each member to be inspired by God's word. Now that you know about Jesus' precious, priceless gift of salvation, will you keep it to yourself? Who in your life needs to hear of God's love?