

# What Happens When I Die...

## Discussion Guide

Week of May 21, 2023 - **"How Now Shall I Live..."**

**Scripture verse: Colossians 3:1-17**

### **LOOKING BACK:**

Take a moment to open up your time together in prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit into your time together, providing clarity to your study.

A fear of the unknown is a natural thing for most people. Death and what happens after seems like the greatest unknown; but, while we cannot envision the specifics of what happens after death, the Bible has made it clear there is more beyond the simple death of our earthly bodies. Jesus tells us there is one way to heaven and, if we choose that path, our eternity is secure with Him.

In light of the truth of eternity, what steps have you taken to more closely follow Jesus? What person in your life has the Lord placed on your heart to share the realities of eternity with?

**LEADER NOTE:** If you have new members join your group, take time to help them get to know your other members. You can use short icebreaker games like "Two Truths and a Lie" as a way to learn more about one another (see game at end of study). The more familiar your group members are, the easier it is for them to be open about how they are obeying Jesus, or where they are struggling.

**OPENING QUESTION:** In John Chapter 10 the authored captured Jesus' assurances that once we have chosen to follow Him, there is no one and nothing that can steal us away: our eternity in heaven is secure. Jesus tells us clearly that his death on the cross made the full payment for the sins of those who follow Him. And not just the sins of the past but also those yet to happen. When you consider the enormous sacrifice He made for us, are there areas in your life that are out of alignment with actually following Christ?

**LOOKING UP:**

Today's world is filled to overflowing with makeovers of every kind. Everything today is about the art of the "flip" - taking something less than desirable and turning it into a masterpiece. As we get ready to dive into this week's study, consider in what parts of your life a "flip" has occurred because of your decision to follow Christ.

Have a group member read aloud this week's passage, found in Colossians 3:1-17.

After ready the passage, ask the group if there are other areas of their lives that might, based on Jesus' payment for our sins, require a makeover.

**LEADER NOTE:** Encourage those in the group who are willing to share an area they may need to work on. If you go first, this usually relieves the pressure and anxiety of starting. Not everyone will be willing to be open or transparent about areas of their lives where they fall short, and there is no reason to force a "confession". Start by praying for the group before asking them to pray silently for their whatever in their life needs

attention. As you pray, ask the Holy Spirit within each of them to show them areas for growth and to help them repent of any ongoing sin. After 1-2 minutes, wrap up the prayer audibly, then ask you reader to re-read Colossians 3:1-17 while the group prepares to move into answering the first two questions below. If you have not already, select another group member to be ready to read the passage one last time in another version of the Bible, after question 2 has been answered.

<p><b>READ THE PASSAGE</b>  <b>Colossians 3:1-17</b></p> <p>Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What stood out to you most?</li> <li>2. What was challenging or hard to understand?</li> <li>3. What does this teach us about God?</li> <li>4. What does this teach us about people?</li> </ol>	<p><b>RE-READ THE PASSAGE</b></p> <p>Read passage again using another Bible translation... then answer the last 2 questions</p>
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**LOOKING FORWARD:**

Jesus did not come solely for the experience of being tortured, crucified, and buried in a tomb for 3 days. He very literally paid the price for every sin – past, present, and future – of EVERY person on earth – past, present, and future. He took us in our very worst shape and wiped our lives 100% clean of every hint of sin so that he could be with us in eternity. He took what was already treasured and precious to him (US!) and made us priceless. REDEEMED! Do you live today in a way reflecting that change?

Jesus did not give us eternal salvation so that we continue to live in and repeat the same sins again and again. **Re-read Colossians 3:12-14**. Next, ask a group member to pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal to our hearts which Godly trait from these verses each person needs to practice

wearing for this next week. Then spend a minute in silence listening to the Holy Spirit. Go around the group and share which Godly trait listed in these verses you need to wear as clothing for yourself this week. For purposes of accountability, write down each person's answer from the group and share next week what happened as a result. Would your friends, family, and acquaintances recognize anything different about you?

One way to get better at "clothing yourself" with these Godly traits is spending time in God's word. Read 1 chapter per day in Colossians this week to prepare you.

### **GAME: TWO TRUTHS & A LIE:**

Each person writes down three statements about themselves. Two TRUE statements and one LIE. After each person is finished writing down their answers... collect all of the individual papers and designate one person to read each paper, one at a time. Go around the group so that everyone can guess which statement they think was made up on each piece of paper. Once everyone has made their guess, reveal which statement was your lie.