LIFE TEAM NOTES: Dealing with Death

To prepare for this week’s meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group; connect and encourage one another to grow and to see God change your lives from the inside out!

**QUICK REVIEW**: Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

* Do you ever think about death? Why or why not?
* What do you think happens after death? Why do you think that?
* What did you grow up believing about life after death?
* What’s something that that was said Sunday that’s influencing the way you think about life after death?

**OUR STORY**

* When someone survives a disaster, when others die - what do you think goes through a person mind?
* Does it change the way someone might live? How?

1. We all hope people will say nice things about us when we die. Can you think of a couple statements you hope would be shared by people at your memorial service?

2. When you think about death, which of the following best reflects your attitude or experience with it (check as many as apply to you):

 I think often about death because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 I hardly think of death at all

 When I think of dying it scares me

 Death is something I’ve had to deal with a lot in my life

 I find it hard to know what to say to someone who is grieving

 I avoid the topic as much as possible

 I’ve never experienced grief because no one close to me has died

 I’ve had a hard time getting over the death of someone close to me

 I’ve learned a lot through my own grieving

 I take great comfort in the truths of the Bible about life after death

 Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**DIGGING DEEPER**

1. Grief is a normal response to the death of a loved one. But the Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 that Christian grief should look very different from worldly grief. After reading the passage, answer the following questions:

* What makes Christian grief different?
* What truths from the passage give you hope about life after death?

2. Can you think of some things people could say to someone who is grieving that most likely wouldn’t be helpful or comforting to them? How about things that would be helpful or comforting to share?

3. The biblical reality that life is short and we all eventually die is meant to encourage us to regularly reflect on how we live. How do you see this reality reflected in the following verses?

Psalm 90:10-12 / James 4:13-17 / 2 Corinthians 5:9-10 / 1 Corinthians 15:58

* Which verses are helpful to you in living out the reality that life is short?

3. This weekend we talked about us storing up treasures in heaven, not on earth. In Luke 12:13-21 is the story of a man who did just the opposite.

* Why do you think Jesus asked that from him?
* How would you have responded at that moment?

Read **2 Corinthians 5:1-10**.

* What does this passage have to say about how we should live now?
* How do you already live like eternity matters? Are there any ways you’re living like it doesn’t?
* What are some things you’d love to be known for when you pass from this life to the next?
* What is one change you want to make to live with eternity in mind?

1. **Start praying. God help me to pray with power & be bold every day!**

* What does praying with power mean?

1. **Start doing. Commit to live each day with eternity in mind!**

* What can you start today/ tomorrow?

1. **Start learning. Discover more about how your life can make a difference for others now!**

* When we live with eternity in mind, we fin we are loving and serving others more intentionally. What are some other ways we can be intentional?

**Prayer request – and pray for boldness to live with eternity in mind!**