



LifeGroup Discussion Guide

How to Die - Paul

Remember this page is designed to begin a discussion with your LifeGroup. It is not comprehensive. Allow the following questions to spur on deeper and fuller conversation, study, and discussion.

Go around and share the most memorable experience you've had at a funeral worship service. What made it "Christian?" Can you recount what was shared, and how it made you feel during that moment?

READ: Matthew 5:4 - In what sense ought a Christian to feel peace and confidence at the death of a loved one? In what sense ought a Christian feel sorrow and sadness at the death of a loved one? Both believers and unbelievers feel the pain of grief and pain around death, how does our faith affect the destination and utility of that grief? **READ: 1 Th 4:13-14.**

An area we didn't get to develop during our Sunday morning study is the presence of Jesus in the midst of loss. We touched on the story of Lazarus' death... **READ: John 11:33-35** - We know from **verse 4** that Jesus is not moved to grief by death's power or permanence, for He says, "This sickness will not end in death." So, what "moves" Jesus from **verse 33**? Jesus saw the pain his loved ones were feeling because of the curse upon this world. If we are to learn to model our lives, thoughts, and beliefs after Jesus', then how should we be moved when it comes to death? **READ: Revelation 21:1-5** - How does the promise of **verse 4** activate your faith when facing death?

It is right for, even Christians, to feel sadness and mourn the death of their loved ones. However, there is another aspect that the Apostle Paul offers to Timothy for those facing grief and pain. **READ: 2 Timothy 4:16-18** - Where is Jesus when Paul is abandoned in **verse 17**? What will the Lord do for Paul in verse 18? When is the Lord at Paul's side from **verse 17**? **READ: Psalm 34:18; 1 Peter 5:6-7; La 3:22-23** - What do these promises teach us about where we can turn in our grief? How did Jesus model this with Mary and Martha?

READ: 2 Timothy 4:6-8 - When Paul uses the metaphor of finishing a race to describe death, he details it towards receiving a reward. Why is it important to connect the "crown" with the One who gives the crown? What is the danger in failing to connect the person and presence of Jesus with our hope of heaven? Go around and share how we can encourage one another in the midst of grief by sharing in it, being careful not to dismiss the pain, but rather carrying it together after the pattern of Jesus and promises of God?