

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides

November 13th Study Guide

Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)

1. Share your favorite family vacation or trip memory. What made that trip so special?
2. In the family that you grew up in, how was the topic of death addressed?

Bible Study Questions

1. When you think about death, what kind of emotions do you have? Fear, avoidance, anticipation? Why do you have those emotions?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, 29-32. Why is the belief in the resurrection so important to Paul? What difference does it make in this life if it isn't true?
3. The Catholic church believes that following death, one spends time in purgatory to do penance for sin. What is wrong with this belief? How does it contradict the gospel message?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:10. What do you imagine it would be like to stand before the judgment seat of Christ? How does it impact your choices right now knowing that you will have to give an accounting for your life before God?
5. Read Revelation 20:11-15. What do these verses teach about what happens to us when we die?
 - How would you respond to someone that says that a loving God would not send anyone to hell?
 - Why is it so important to have a proper understanding of hell? What difference does it make?

6. Pastor Michael talked about living our lives with death in mind. We tend to think of death as something in the distant future, but the reality is that it can happen at any time. What difference does it make if we live a life prepared for death?
7. What kind of investments are worth pursuing in light of eternal life? What kind of experiences might you have to give up by investing in eternal things?

November 13th Resurrection Coming

The one belief that spans different religions and political parties is that someday, each of us will die. It is the step into the great unknown and one of our greatest fears. The Bible gives us clear teaching on what to expect following death.

I. Death will be followed by a future resurrection: We often have pictures of us spending heaven as angels or as disembodied souls sitting on clouds. In Daniel 12:2, we are told that all who sleep (died), will awake to either experience everlasting life or judgment. Jesus himself talked about the future resurrection in John 5:28. Jesus' own resurrection, his original body with new powers, is the template for what his followers will someday experience.

II. Everyone will give an account for their life before God: 2 Corinthians 5:10 says that we all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Due to our sin nature, each of stand before God with the verdict of "guilty" (Romans 3:23).

a. Those who trust in Jesus live with him forever: Many passages such as Daniel 12:2 or John 3:17 talk about two directions that people can go. For those who have believed in Jesus, they are welcomed into eternal life. This happens because Jesus has covered them with his perfection.

b. Those who reject Jesus experience eternal judgment: Those who reject Jesus are guilty before God and cast into eternal judgment in hell (Revelation 20:15). Today, many people are bothered by this teaching believing that it is incompatible with a loving God. However, God does not send people to hell. They choose that themselves by sinning and then rejecting Jesus as their savior.

III. What difference does it make?

a. Death is not something to be feared: Death is the result of our sin and the resulting curse. Yet, Jesus conquered death on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:55-57). Death is now a conquered enemy and no longer has its power. It is the means by which we are able to leave this life and move into the presence of God.

b. Make sure that your name is in the book of Life: Many of us live as if we are immortal, imagining death to be far in the future. Yet, we have no idea when death will come.

Choosing to trust Jesus is the most important decision that one can make to prepare for death.

c. Invest in the things that last: Many of the things in this world, such as wealth or stuff is only temporary. What lasts into the resurrection is our walk with God and the people that we take with us. We should invest in that direction. It also means that if those investments cause us to miss things in this life, we have eternity to make up for it.