

discussion guide for november 5th

"What Happens After I Die?"

1 Corinthians 15:51-52



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ **Launch the Discussion** (11:00 am)

Can you imagine your own death? Pastor Tom said 100% of people will die unless Jesus returns. George Barna states, *"many Americans adopt simplistic views of life and afterlife based on ideas drawn from disparate sources, such as movies, music and novels, without carefully considering those beliefs."** For the next ten minutes, use these questions to launch discussion. Be careful not to go too long on this!!!!

- Describe a vision of your own moment of death. Assume it to be pain-free. Assume you will be conscious and alert.
- What will your thoughts be just before the death moment? What will you experience?
- What will your thoughts be just after the moment of death? What will you experience?
- On what are you basing these concepts and ideas?

*(Source: www.barna.org/FlexPage.aspx?Page=BarnaUpdate&BarnaUpdateID=150)

➤ **Guide the Discussion** (11:10 am)

I believe in . . . the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Pastor Tom referred to Ecclesiastes 7:4 which says (NLT), "A wise person thinks a lot about death." So, if you've been pondering this issue, the Bible affirms you're wise to do so. What does the Bible say about death on which we can anchor faith?

1. After I die, my soul will continue.

- Read 2 Cor. 5:6-8 (p. 1538-DSB*). What is the significance of Paul's use of the word "confident"? Of what is he confident?
- Read Phil. 1:21-23 (p. 1569-DSB*). Why was Paul "torn" about his death?
- Read Luke 23:43 (p. 1385-DSB*). At death, what happens to the soul of man? Can you believe this?

2. When Christ returns, my body will be resurrected.

- Read 2 Cor. 5:1-4 (p. 1537-DSB*). What is the "tent"? What 2 bodies are mentioned in this passage? How are they different? How are they the same?
- Read Phil. 3:20-21 (p. 1572-DSB*). What is Paul describing? Do you believe it?
- Read John 5:28-29 (p. 1399-DSB*). What is Jesus describing? Can you believe this?

3. Two Things To Do While I Am Still Alive.

- Faith – in what? Why?
- Faithfulness – to what? Why? (*Hint: move on to the application section*)

*"DSB" - The "Discovery Study Bibles" on common ground tables.

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➤ Apply the Discussion (11:35 am)

FAITH: If you want to face death with confidence, put your hope and trust in the one that defeated death with confidence. 2 Tim. 1:10 (CEV), “Christ our Savior defeated death and brought us the good news. It shines like a light and offers life that never ends.” Now there is an anchor. How strong is your faith? Is it strong enough to face death without fear?

FAITHFULNESS: That is the word in 2 Cor. 5. After taking vv.1-8 to explain survival of the soul beyond death and promise of future resurrection, Paul wrote in 9-10, “*So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*” Will you renew your commitment to faithfulness today?

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Pray for those who share things God is leading them to do in response to this lesson.
- Pray for other shared needs.
- Pray for absentees by name. (*Who will contact them this week and fill them in on group time?*)

Go Deeper: Use the “*Going Deeper*” section in your personal daily devotionals. It is a great way to strengthen and reinforce what you are learning and applying to your life.

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➤ Going Deeper

Last Sunday you discovered you can have confidence facing death. The readings this week speak to the reality of afterlife. These scriptures encourage your faith and increase your confidence in the hope found in your faith in Christ.

Monday, November 6: Read John 11:25-26.

(p.1412-DSB*) How would you answer this question? The answer to this question is the most important in all of life.

Tuesday, November 7: Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-

18. (p.1584-DSB*) What would you say to someone who said that death was the end? What do you believe?

Wednesday, November 8: Read John 14:1-4. (p.1418-

DSB*) In this description of heaven, what is sure? What can you count on? What hope is your anchor?

Thursday, November 9: Read 2 Timothy 4:8 (p.1600-

DSB*). When will this verse be fulfilled? Is it a call for faithfulness? Why?

Friday, November 10: Read 2 Peter 3:9 (p.1647-

DSB*). Why do we need to be patient with God about heaven? What is He waiting for? Do you know any unbelievers? What can you do for THEM?

*“DSB” refers to the “Discovery Study Bibles” available in common ground.