





COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: We are to grieve with hope.

HEAD CHANGE: We live with a deep assurance that we are right with God both today and forevermore

HEART CHANGE: As I look to Jesus, there is always hope.

LIFE CHANGE: Those who belong to Jesus and follow Him are empowered by His Spirit and charged by His word with transforming the present in light of the future.

OVERVIEW

The Sting of Death. The Hope in Grief.

Christians have a hope that enables us to face anything. There's an "unsinkableness" about us. There's a stubborn buoyancy about us. You sink a Christian and they keep coming back up. No matter how much of the world seems to be on top of them. This is not the same as optimism. As a matter of fact, Christians have a hope that enables them to stop denying how much life stinks. There's a tremendous amount of dysfunction that occurs because we just can't bear to admit how horrible life is - how painful it is. Yet, biblical hope enables us to be more fiercely realistic than anybody else yet still joyfully consumed. The Apostle Paul says the reason we have this hope is because of the defeat of death.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NLT) - *And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so **you will not grieve like people who have no hope.** For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you in this teaching? Why do you think that resonated?
2. How does your understanding of Jesus' defeat of death bring you hope in seasons of grief?
3. Can you describe a time when you grieved with hope and contrast it with a time when you grieved without hope?
4. What comes to mind when you think about heaven? How would you describe heaven to a friend?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, we can't do any of this without You. Thank You for revealing the finished work of Jesus to us. May we live with a greater understanding of your grace and approval on our lives because of what Jesus has done. If there are any areas of our lives that are captured by pride, reveal that to me now, I repent and ask for your humility to walk with you and obey you in response to your love and grace toward me. I receive your power to live with the end in mind. In Jesus' name, amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!