



Facing Death Participant Guide – May 17, 2020

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NIV)

ICE BREAKER

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of the word "death"?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Death is something that all of us face in our life – the inevitability of our own death, loss of friends/family, etc. What is the biggest cause of anxiety in your life when facing death – both personally and with loved ones?
- 2) Pastor Kevin shared on Sunday the root cause/reason for death out of Genesis 2:17 and Romans 6:23. What is death a consequence of? How does this truth allow us to face the reality and reason for death?
- 3) Grief is something we inevitably face when experiencing death, but as followers of Jesus we have hope in death. What does Paul say gives us hope in vv. 13-14? How can we hold onto this hope in our life?
- 4) Facing death brings an incredible opportunity to discuss spirituality, eternal life, separation from God, etc. Who do you need to share the hope you have in Jesus with this week? What would this look like in your current relationships? Take time as a group to walk through these conversations.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- 1) How can you reflect on the promise of eternal life with Jesus this week to see all you face – fear of death, anxiety, etc. – in the right perspective?
- 2) Who can you reach out to this week to support them in their fear of death or grief in loss?