

Read: **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**
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.**

These verses describe Judgment Day. What about this do you look forward to? What part might give you a little apprehension? Why?

Read: **1 Thessalonians 4:18**
¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Why is the knowledge that we will be with every believer and the Lord forever in heaven so encouraging?

Read the last fill in of the notes and react to it.

Doing Life Together

Take time now to talk about a fun event you can do together and an Impact Project you can do to show love to your community. (Leaders, be sure to watch the Impact Project Video that Karie Hicks emailed to you last week! The video will help you greatly in planning your Impact Project)

Friendship:

Spend 10 to 15 minutes of catching up with other group members. Take time to get to know those you don't know quite as well. Make sure to include everyone in the group.

Reminders:

Take a look at these events together in the fellowship app. If you've done one in the past, please share your experience.

- **Fall Picnic and Imagine Celebration:** November 20, 2021 from 3 -6 PM. Look for more information and register on the Church Center App under events.
- **Feed a Family:** What an opportunity to impact our community as a church family! Please donate and sign up to volunteer on the Church Center App.

Heaven Is...

Full of Hope (Eternal Perspective)

November 14, 2021 / Chris Johnson

Will we actually see and know our loved ones in heaven?

¹⁵ 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. **1 Thessalonians 4:13, NIV**

What we _____ about death determines how we _____ when a loved one dies. Everyone _____, but not everyone grieves the same.

³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." **Mark 5:38-39, NIV**

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. **1 Thessalonians 4:14, NIV**

Will we actually see and know our loved ones in heaven?

1. Yes, because _____ is the sin-forgiver and the death-conqueror in whom we _____.

¹⁹ Because I live, you also will live. **John 14:19, NIV**

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. **1 Thessalonians 4:15, NIV**

³¹ When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **Matthew 25:31-32, NIV**

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.** **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, NIV**

Will we actually see and know our loved ones in heaven?

2. **Yes, because Jesus keeps His _____ and therefore is our source of _____ for a joyful family _____ that will never end.**

¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.” **1 Thessalonians 4:18, NIV**

³³ In this world you will have trouble, but take heart I have overcome the world.” **John 16:33, NIV**

Will we actually see and know our loved ones in heaven?

3. **Yes, because of Jesus, death is not a _____ goodbye. It's a see you _____.**

MEMORY VERSE

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. **1 Thessalonians 4:14, NIV**

My next step: I will look forward with hope as I anticipate our joyful family reunion of heaven made possible by Jesus' victory over sin and death.

What's your next step?

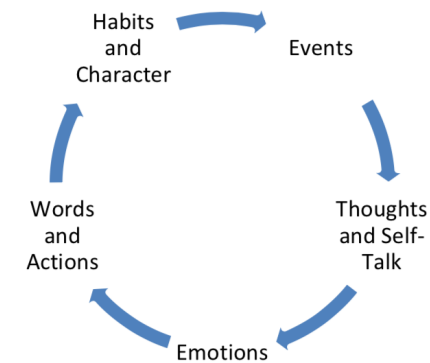
Mark it on your communication card.

Impact Group Questions Heaven Is... Full of Hope (Eternal Perspective)

Getting Started – What do you look forward to the most about heaven?

Going Back to Sunday

Each week we have the thought/action wheel that is meant to help us process the message and to come to a more clear understanding of how we think, feel and act. How does the truth that we will see our loved ones again who have died in faith change the way we grieve?



Read:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

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.

What difference does Jesus' resurrection from the dead make in how we view our own death and the death of our loved ones?

How would you explain this to someone who doesn't follow Jesus and is wondering what happens when she dies?