



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
Winter Quarter - Lesson 3 - Week of January 28, 2024

Lesson: FEAR OF LIFE'S FINAL MOMENTS

Bible Verses: Hebrews 9:27; 2 Timothy 1:10; I Corinthians 15:26; Romans 10:9;
Ephesians 2:8; John 14:1-3

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What do you do for fun?
2. Do you have any death anxiety?

DISCUSSION

We all desire to face death without fright or a fight perhaps even with a smile. Because of Christ, we can face our next life with peace. But many live as if death is the worst moment in life. Just look at the revenue the anti-aging industry boasts! We are scared to death of death. The truth is that we all have to die. It's how we live that counts.

1. Are you looking forward to death calling you?
2. Do you have any questions regarding death?
3. What do you fear about death?

This is the promise of Christ in John 14:1-3 (NLT): *"Don't let your heart be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."* What does this promise mean to you? How does it ease your fears?

Get in the mindset of a first-century Christian. Think of the challenges they faced and the unknowns they had about heaven, considering the newness of the gospel message. How might this message have affected them differently than it affects us?

Read John 14:1-3 and I Corinthians 15:22-23 and write a few sentences about what you think the afterlife will be like. Ancient Greek philosophers had a despairing view of death. They believed that upon death, a soul was released into a sunless afterlife. Jesus changed our understanding of death forever. He promised not just an afterlife but a better life. How does Jesus' promise of death and an afterlife change the way that you live your life?

Jesus frequently used wedding imagery to describe the afterlife; but for most of us, the mental pictures of weddings and funerals couldn't be more opposite. Weddings are joyous times of union, new starts, and thoughts of babies and new life that aren't far on the horizon. Funerals seem to be the end of a long journey or the cutting short of opportunity and love. But Jesus saw it differently. In what ways are you sure of your bridegroom, Christ, as you think of your next existence with Him? Describe your image of heaven. Is it biblical?

Our uncertainty about death and the afterlife generates a lot of fear. Death is not to be feared. Your last moment is not your worst. We dread the unknown rather than look at it as an opportunity for exploration. How does Jesus' resurrection make it safe for you to die?

Four Ways to Prepare for Your Final Moments (Eternity)

1. Examine yourself (Psalm 139:23-24).
2. Repent (Luke 13:3).
3. Stay connected to God (Matthew 6:33).
4. Submit to God (Romans 12:2).

Comfort with the thought of death is born out of an intimate relationship with God. How comfortable are you with the thought of death? Are you at a point where you are comfortable saying that this could be your final night in this version of life? If not, please spend time getting to know God's goodness in a personal way. Do you live as though you will not exist one day in the future? Have you prepared your family for your death?

Prayer Focus: God, help me to develop an intimate relationship with you.

MEMORY VERSES: John 14:1-3