



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Winter Quarter - Lesson 5 - Week of February 12, 2023

Lesson: **ONE WEEK TO LIVE**

Bible Verses: John 13:36-38; John 14:1-6; Ecclesiastes 9:5; Isaiah 26:3;
I Corinthians 15:23; Acts 23:8

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- What is the longest trip you have ever taken?
- What is one thing you easily and naturally love?

DISCUSSION

Read John 13:36-38 and John 14:1-6.

1. What application do you find in these passages?
2. What part of Jesus' story is told in these passages?

Jesus knows that it's less than 24 hours before His death; perhaps less than six hours until His arrest. The eleven men sharing His last meal are His dearest friends and more; they are the core of those who will carry on His mission when He is gone. In these few hours, Jesus sets aside His own anguish in order to prepare His team for His departure.

1. If you knew that you had one week to live, what would you do?
2. What do we learn about death from these passages?

These final discourses contain some of Jesus' most profound teaching. He returns to the same topics over and over, weaving them together. Jesus grants courage for the final passage - death, a new adventure in existence. There's no need to dread it or ignore it. Because of Christ, you can face it.

"Let not your hearts be troubled." Try to imagine how these words sounded when Jesus spoke to them. Thoughts? While Jesus' words sound comforting to us, they sounded radical to his first-century audience. He was promising to accomplish a feat no one dared to envision or imagine. He would return from the dead and rescue His followers from the grave.

Traditional Judaism was divided on the topic of resurrection. The Sadducees said that there is no resurrection and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confessed both (Acts 23:8). Sadducees saw a grave as a tragic, one-way trip to Sheol with no escape, no hope, and no possibility of parole. "The living know they will die, but the dead know nothing (Eccl. 9:5 NIV)."

The Pharisees envisioned a resurrection; yet the resurrection was spiritual, not physical. There are no traditions about prophets being raised to a new bodily life. No matter how exalted Abraham, Isaac and Jacob may have been in Jewish thought, nobody imagined they had been raised from the dead.

This was the landscape into which Jesus entered. Yet, he walked into this swamp of uncertainty and built a sturdy bridge. He promised, not just an afterlife, but a better life. Are you positioned to utilize the bridges that Jesus built to another life? Jesus prepared a way from life to a better life after death. "There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you."

What is the cure for the troubled heart? Faith in the Lord Jesus is the only sure medicine for troubled hearts. To believe more thoroughly, trust more entirely, rest more unreservedly, and lay hold more firmly, this is the prescription which our Master urges of all His disciples.

1. How does hope in a future heaven help a troubled heart today?
2. If a friend shares that she believes in Jesus but her heart is still troubled, what would you say to her?

Never let us forget that there are degrees of faith, and that there is a wide difference between weak and strong believers. We must keep our minds on Jesus in order to strengthen our faith (Isaiah 26:3). Jesus said He will come back and take us where He is. How do we know He will keep His word?

If Jesus' tomb is empty, then His promise is not. Leave it to Paul to reduce the logic to a single sentence. Read I Corinthians 15:23 (NLT). Paul was writing to Corinthian Christians, people who had been schooled in the Greek philosophy of a shadowy afterlife. Someone was convincing them that corpses couldn't be raised, neither theirs nor Christ's. The apostle couldn't bear such a thought. Read I Corinthians 15:1 (MSG).

While we do not know how long we will live, we should pursue living a meaningful life.

How To Live a Meaningful Life

1. Maintain a personal relationship with God.
2. Love and be loved by people.
3. Know your purpose.
4. Have personal passion projects that serve people and glorify God.
5. Trust God and live with him until you die.

Prayer Focus: God, help me live a meaningful life while preparing to meet you.