



Harvester Groups

HEAVEN, HELL, AND HERE: *What happens when you die?* | Group Questions for Week 1

Prepare: Read Philippians 1:19-27 several times before your group meeting. Write down any questions or observations you want to discuss.

Discuss*

- Jesus' parable of Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19-31) is often used to help describe the state of people after their death. What initial conclusions about dying do you draw from reading this?
- The Bible also uses several other images to picture death. Read these passages and talk about whether your view of death accurately (or inaccurately) mirrors the biblical view of death. Death is pictured as:
 - Sleep—because it is temporary and ends in a great awakening (1 Corinthians 15:51)
 - An exodus—a joyful release from bondage (Luke 9:31; 2 Peter 1:14-15)
 - Taking down a tent—our earthly body dies but we receive a new, glorified body (2 Corinthians 5:1, 4)
 - Coming home—we go to a place of rest and security (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)
 - For people without the assurance of salvation and forgiveness in Christ, the Bible pictures death as a "terror" (Psalm 55:4) and an "enemy" (1 Corinthians 15:25-26).
- Do most people you know think that death brings "gain" (v21)? Explain.
- What kept Paul linked to this life (vv22, 25-26)?
- What were his expectations about being with Christ (v23)?
- The word *depart* (v23) was used in Paul's day to picture a ship being untied from the dock and setting sail for a new destination. If you view death in that light, does it make death a more positive experience or a more uncertain one? Why?
- What spiritual legacy did Paul want to leave in the lives of these Christians (vv27-30)?

Apply

- What needs to happen in your life for you to say, "for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain?"
- A short time before his death, Dallas Willard said: "I think that when I die, it might be some time before I know it." How does his statement help you envision what happens when you die?

*The most important thing in your life is not what you do;
it's who you become. That's what you will take into eternity.*
Dallas Willard

**Use these questions to guide your discussion. Don't feel like you have to go through all of them and make sure you take time to talk through any questions and observations from the group.*