

What Happens When I Die...

Discussion Guide

Week of April 23 - **"Judgment"**

Scripture verse: Matthew 25:1-3

Select someone to open in prayer, thanking God for his plan of Salvation - for Jesus and His great sacrifice to give us the opportunity to spend eternity in heaven with Him. Ask for the Holy Spirit to help us understand what the Word is teaching tonight.

LOOKING BACK:

In light of Easter, the Resurrection, and learning more last week about Jesus' return, with whom have you shared this great gift from Jesus, or your own "resurrection" story last week?

Reminder: lost people do not know how to become found. They need our help. Are you looking for the opportunity to help someone?

OPENING QUESTION: Something that ties into the message or assigned scripture for this week.

LOOKING UP:

Every day is filled with multitudes of choices. We get to choose what time we wake and go to bed; what food we eat and when; what clothes and shoes to wear; what kind of car to drive; what form of entertainment we prefer; Apple or Android; cash, card or cryptocurrency. The options are limitless, and many seem like life and death choices, but ultimately have little to no lasting effect. Other choices have serious consequences. **Share with**

your group a time when your choice(s) had unexpected consequences.

Ask someone from the group to be prepared to read tonight's passage, Matthew 25:1-13. Then, ask another group member to **pray** for God's message, that the Holy Spirit would work within the hearts and minds of those gathered to truly begin to understand His plan and purpose in this passage.

Then, move into **reading** the passage, and be prepared to spend some time together sharing and considering responses to questions 1 and 2 below.

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| <p>READ THE PASSAGE Matthew 25:1-13</p> <p>Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What stood out to you most?2. What was challenging or hard to understand?3. What does this teach us about God?4. What does this teach us about people? | <p>RE-READ THE PASSAGE</p> <p>Reading out of another bible translation... then answer the last 2 questions</p> |
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LOOKING FORWARD:

Jesus' sacrifice took away the judgment and punishment for our sins, and we often get complacent in the knowledge that our sins are forgiven when we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of our lives. We mistakenly fall into the trap of thinking that merely believing is enough. But Jesus's command was to do as He did—to seek and to save the lost. We cannot buy or earn our own salvation. Jesus paid that price, and by grace, it was credited to us. But we will be shut out of the party if we fail to be prepared. We need to know the Lord intimately by

spending time with Him daily just as you would a good friend. Read His word and allow Him to speak to you. Pray to seek His help and praise Him for all He has done and continues to do. Allow Him to change your heart and mind so that you cannot help but share Him with everyone. Let's not be caught unprepared and be the one about whom Jesus has to say, "Truly I tell you, I don't know you." (Matt 25:12)

What will you do to be prepared for Christ's return? Take this last moment together and silently pray for the Lord to reveal to you someone near you, but far from Jesus, who needs to be told about being prepared for Jesus' return. Share the good news - Jesus has dyed on a cross to remove our sin and restore our closeness to God. Write the name down of the one the Holy Spirit places on your mind or heart.