

# the ESSENTIALS

why truth matters

**OPENING UP**

There have been many books, movies and TV shows created about the afterlife. Which one has been most memorable for you? Have any of them impacted the way you think?

**TEXT****I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**MESSAGE OUTLINE**

**Big Idea:** Resurrection is coming!

**Key Question:** How should we respond to the truth of the future resurrection?

**Apostles' Creed Statement:** *"I believe in...the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."*

1. Grieve with hope. (vv.13-14)
2. Anticipate Christ's return. (vv. 15-17)
3. Comfort one another. (v. 18)

## DISCUSSION



- The message this week addressed the topics of death and the afterlife. How often do you think about these topics? How does your belief in the afterlife affect your daily living?
- In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, Paul encourages believers that when they grieve, they can do so with hope. When you've experienced pain and suffering, what's helped you to grieve and express your emotions? How is the grieving of a believer different because of the hope we have in Christ?
- As believers, we can look forward to Christ's return with joyful anticipation (vv.15-17). What feelings do you have when you think about the second coming of Jesus? Do you anticipate it with joy, or does it cause anxiety or fear?
- Paul instructs believers to encourage one another with the truth of the gospel, the coming resurrection (v. 18). Share about a difficult time when you received encouragement and comfort in the context of Christian community. How can we, as a Life Group, encourage one another with the Gospel when one of us walks through a time of grieving?
- *The Resurrection is Coming!* What might shift in your mind and heart if you actively live in the hope and anticipation of Christ's return? How would it change the way you live today?

## LIFE CHALLENGE



Death is something we must all face. People close to us will die, some in an untimely manner, and we will be left grieving the loss. Yet, as believers we don't grieve as the world grieves – we grieve with hope. We look forward to the resurrection and therefore can encourage one another, even in some of life's hardest moments.

Is there something in your life that you are grieving? If you're struggling to have hope, seek out the encouragement of those in your group. As the church we are called to help one another through difficult times and encourage one another with the truth of the Gospel. If you're not currently grieving, is there someone in your life who is? How can you encourage them in this season with the hope of Christ?

## CLOSING PRAYER



God, you are so good. Your promises never fail. Thank you for the promise of the coming resurrection. Thank you for the hope we have because of Your Son! Help us to live in anticipation of Jesus' second coming, of the resurrection of the body! This world is full of darkness and the sting of death is still ever-present in our lives. But help us not to grieve in despair, but with hope! Remind us of your goodness. Help us to encourage one another and open our eyes to see who else we can encourage with your truth this week. Amen.