



C O N T R A S T

A STUDY IN 1 THESSALONIANS

Hope in the Face of Death October 27, 2024 | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Questions for Study and Group Discussion

*** Before you begin, please read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

1. Icebreaker: What is your first memory of a funeral service? (If this question is too sensitive for any reason, feel free to “pass.”)
2. Why is it important to think about the reality of death, and how we respond to it?
3. How would you summarize the point of this passage in one sentence?
4. What does it look like to grieve well as a follower of Jesus? (To see examples of grief or lament in the Bible, see Psalm 13; John 11:35; Philippians 2:27; Romans 12:15.)
5. Why is it so important to remember the power of hope — even in our grief?
6. Re-read 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17. What reasons for hope does Paul provide? What stands out to you about these reasons?
7. Was anything you read in 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 brand new to you? What piques your interest the most from this passage, and why?
8. In 1 Thessalonians 4:18, Paul clearly tells us how he wants us to apply the message of this section. How is this section encouraging? How does this application (“encourage one another”) shape how you read these verses?
9. Describe someone you know whose life modeled this “hope in the face of death” that we’ve seen in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. What did hope look like in their example?
10. Knowing Jesus is central to experiencing hope in the face of death. Why is this the case?
11. If you’ve placed your faith in Jesus, how does this provide you with hope? If you’ve not yet placed your faith in Jesus, what questions do you still have?
12. What other questions or comments do you have about what you’ve looked at in the Bible today?
13. What was your biggest take-away from the message? Why?
14. **Challenge:** Identify one way this passage is challenging or encouraging you. Who can you tell about what you’re learning this coming week?