

Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Read Hebrews 9:27 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator: Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions, Hebrews 9:27

April 5, 2015

Title: What Happens When We Die?

Question: There is a reluctance in our culture to talk about death. In fact, most people will use most any word or phrase to avoid the D-word. Some soften the event, like "passed away," and others avoid it altogether and can be quite bizarre, like "kicked the bucket." What replacements for "he died" can you think of?

Question: Why do you think people are reluctant to talk about death? **Facilitator:** Suggest one reason could be the uncertainty of what lies in store for them after death, or a fear that they will be found wanting at a coming judgement.

Question: How do other religions and other world views attempt to deal with the reality of death and a sense of a coming judgement? **Facilitator:** The Humanist might say that after death there is nothing. The Hindu might believe in a reincarnated life.

Question: Earlier in the book of Hebrews, the writer speaks of how Christ has changed our perspective on death. Read Hebrews 2:14-15 *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.* How does this passage change your perspective on death, or does it? How is the perspective on death different for those who believe?

Question: Read Philippians 1:21-23 *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.* Obviously the apostle Paul's perspective on death is much

different than that of any other religion or world view. Would you find yourself “hard pressed” to choose between death (depart and be with Christ) and life in the flesh (fruitful labor)? What would it take for you to think of death in a Philippians 1:21 way?

Application Question: Do you daily live in light of Christ’s conquering death? Do you still have a lingering fear of death? What Scripture passages can you think of that inform and shape your view of death? **Facilitator:** Have the group read Hebrews 2:14-15 again and then read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 and Romans 8:31-39.