



## **JESUS AND ETERNAL LIFE**

### SECTION I. Introduction

- A. Do you think almost everyone is afraid of dying?  
Why?
- B. What do you think will happen to you when you die?
- C. If you have a religious tradition, what does it teach about death and what will happen to us after death?

### SECTION II. The Bible has many things to say about what happens to us when we die.

- A. The Old Testament speaks in several places about this.
  - 1. Read Psalm 16:11. Here David is talking to God.
    - a. What does David say God does for him?
    - b. According to David, how long will his happiness in being with God last?

2. Now read Isaiah 26:19.

- a. What does Isaiah say will happen to the dead?
- b. How will the dead feel when they are revived (resurrected)?

B. In the New Testament, Jesus also talked about eternal life.

1. Read John 10:27-28. Here Jesus speaks of us. He calls us His *sheep*.

- a. What do you think it means for us to respond to Jesus' voice and follow him?
- b. According to the passage, what does Jesus do?
- c. What does this say about Jesus' hold on us?

2. Read John 3:16.

- a. Why did God the Father send Jesus, His Son, to earth?
- b. What must we do in order to receive eternal life?

## NOTES

- c. What does God's gift of His Son, Jesus, mean in your life?

SECTION III. Jesus spoke a number of times about His death and what would happen after His death. Read Matthew 17:22-23.

- A. What did Jesus tell the disciples would happen to Him?
- B. How did the disciples feel about what Jesus told them would happen to Him in the future?

SECTION IV. Christians believe that Jesus' prophecy came true. It happened as Jesus had said it would happen. Jesus died on the cross, and then He rose from the dead three days later. Read Mark 16:1-8.

- A. What was the first surprise that the women had when they went to Jesus' tomb?
- B. What did they expect to see in the tomb, and what was actually there?
- C. What did the young man tell the women?
- D. What did the young man ask the women to do?
- E. What did they actually do and why did they do it?

SECTION V. According to the New Testament Jesus appeared to many people after He rose from the dead. He spoke with them, ate with them and taught them. The Books of Acts and 1 Corinthians talk about Jesus' resurrection.

A. Read Acts 10:39-41.

1. Who is testifying to Jesus' resurrection here?
2. What did Jesus do when He was with the apostles?
3. Why do you think it is important that we know that Jesus ate and drank with them?

B. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-14. Why does Paul say that if Christ hasn't come back to life, the Christian faith and the Bible's message have no meaning?

C. Read John 11:25-26.

1. What is your answer to Jesus' question?
2. How might a positive answer to this question change the way you think about death?

SECTION V.

There were many appearances of Jesus after His resurrection.

Some references are:

To Mary:	John 20:14-18
To the apostles:	John 20:19-29
	John 21:1-14
	Acts 1:3-8
On the road to Emmaus, to two disciples:	Luke 24:13-35

The Bible clearly speaks about the fact that Jesus was more than a teacher, and the proof that He was God is in His resurrection. Here Paul is speaking to those who appear to have been teaching that we do not rise from the dead, or that the resurrection was only spiritual. He is pointing out that Jesus' life, teachings and death, without the resurrection, would mean that we had no hope for forgiveness or a life forever in God's presence. Therefore the resurrection is key to the Christian faith and hope. Because Christ rose from the dead, we too can be sure that we will rise again, and we need have no fear of death.

**JESUS AND ETERNAL LIFE  
LEADER'S NOTES**

**SECTION I.**

Archaeological evidence clearly shows that even humans who lived thousands of years ago thought about what happened to them after death. Different cultures and different religions have varied explanations about what happens. Hindus and Buddhists have the concept of rebirth or reincarnation. Animists believe that the spirits of the dead remain around us, but they are not reborn. Muslims hope to go to paradise. The New Testament is clear that if we believe in Jesus, we will have eternal life, and be with God forever. We receive that eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The emphasis in the introduction is on helping people to share their present understanding about what happens to us after we die. Many people who are atheists or perhaps have never thought clearly about this question may have difficulty answering it. Many are not eager to think about death. A short discussion should bring out the various basic ideas of those present.

**SECTION IV.**

To help people understand this short section, the leader will want to explain that the Jewish day of worship is from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday.

The tomb where Jesus was placed belonged to a Jewish official, Joseph of Arimathea. At that time, many tombs, especially for the rich, were cut into the rock and were closed with a very large stone. Jewish tradition said that bodies were placed in the tomb wound in linen cloth along with spices to preserve the body. The body of Jesus had been taken down from the cross so quickly because of the Sabbath that it had not had the spices wrapped within the cloth. The women were going to the tomb to do this work on Sunday morning.

**JESUS AND ETERNAL LIFE  
VOCABULARY**

**Psalm 16:11**

path	a road or track
joy	feeling of deep happiness

**Isaiah 26:19**

corpse	dead body
rise	to come back to life
lie	horizontal position
dust	fine, dry particles of dirt
dew	moisture which forms on cold surfaces during the night
refreshing	comforting, to make new
revive	bring back
spirits	the dead will be alive again

**John 10:27-28**

respond	listen to and answer
eternal	everlasting, never ending
tear away	take them away suddenly

**John 3:16**

eternal life                      never ending life

**Matthew 17:22-23**

Galilee                      northern part of the Kingdom of Israel

Son of Man                      a name that Jesus called himself. He was talking about something that is written in the Old Testament, in the Book of Daniel. By using that name for himself, Jesus was saying that He was God.

betrayed                      to be disloyal

handed over                      given, surrendered

disciples                      people who believe in and follow Jesus

**Mark 16:1-8**

day of worship                      the day used for showing great honor to God

spices                      myrrhs and aloes were used to prepare the body for burial – myrrh is an aromatic substance from a tree

anoint                      apply oil

tomb                      a place where a human body is put after the person dies—in Jesus time, it was often a cave

roll                      push, move, turn over

robe                      gown, clothes

panic-stricken                      sudden feeling of great fear

crucified                      to kill someone by nailing or binding to a cross

shock                      surprise

trembling                      shaking involuntarily

overwhelmed                      it is just too much, defeated

**Acts 10:39-41**

testify                      bear witness

Jerusalem                      capital city of Israel, a significant religious center

witnesses                      persons present when an event happened

apostles                      men chosen by Christ to preach (teach) the Gospel

**I Corinthians 15:12-14**

message                      the teachings about Jesus

faith                      belief that does not rely only on logical proof or material evidence