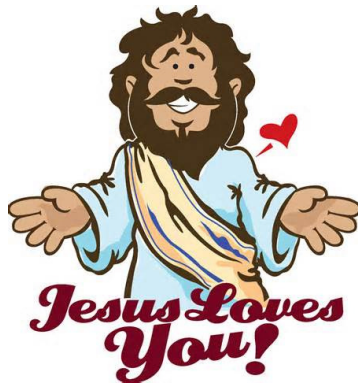


FAMILY TALK BACK QUESTIONS

1. What happens to people when they die? How do you know? Why is there even such a thing as death?
2. Why are there so many different beliefs about what happens to people when they die - such as reincarnation, heaven, purgatory, sleep hell, spirits or ghosts.
3. How old do you think you will be when you die? Would you feel cheated if you died before reaching this age? Do you know of persons who died before they thought they would? Who or what determines how old you will be when you die?
4. Why are so many people afraid to die? What percentage of the people you know will die?
5. Compare what humans think of when it comes to death (Ecclesiastes 9:5) with what God thinks of when it comes to death (John 11:11-14, 25,26)
6. How do you respond to stories about people communicating with dead people? How do you respond to the hear-death stories about travelling down a long tunnel that has a light at the end?
7. When does eternal life begin for Christians (John 5:24)? How does that make a difference regarding and resurrection? How does "giving your live to Jesus" relate to all this?



Lesson 8.

State of the Dead

Name: _____

NEXT TIME: THE SANCTUARY & THE 3 ANGELS MESSAGES

GOD GIVES LIFE

Have you ever been to a funeral? What do you remember about it? Death is not a pleasant topic. Most people fear death, and when we hear that someone has died, the most common reaction is denial. "No, it can't be!" Most of us don't think we will die, but unless Jesus returns first, this will be a reality.



But this raises a very important question. What happens to people after they die?

Before we talk about death, we need to talk about how life began.

It was the sixth day of creation. God had just created the world, but something was missing. Having spoken everything into existence, God now turns his attention to the his masterpiece of creation, people. How would you write the following verse in your own words?

Genesis 2:7 [p 8] _____.

We can make this verse into a simple mathematical equation.

_____ + _____ = Living Being (or soul).

Notice that it is the whole breath (or spirit), plus the dust of the ground that makes a living soul. Some people think that we are spirits floating around who then jump into bodies. But "spirit" here is simply the breath of God. Others think that the soul is separate from the body. The Bible doesn't see it that way. Our soul and body are combined. Just like if we have wood and some nails and decide to make a box. The box is a result of these two items coming together. Was the box floating around before? No it didn't even exist until it was made.

God has made us, he gave us life.

So why is there death?



THE BLESSED HOPE

The Bible then explains how this will happens. Who is coming back? And when do the dead rise?

1 Thess 4:16 [p838] _____

What about we who are alive and remain? What happens to them.

v17 _____

Do you see what is happening? There will be a great big reunion in the sky.

We will see our loved ones again. We will be together with Jesus!!

What are we to do with these words? **v. 18** _____

We are to encourage each other, because of this Hope we have in Jesus.

What does the Bible say will happen to our bodies, and who will gives us the victory?

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 [p 814] _____

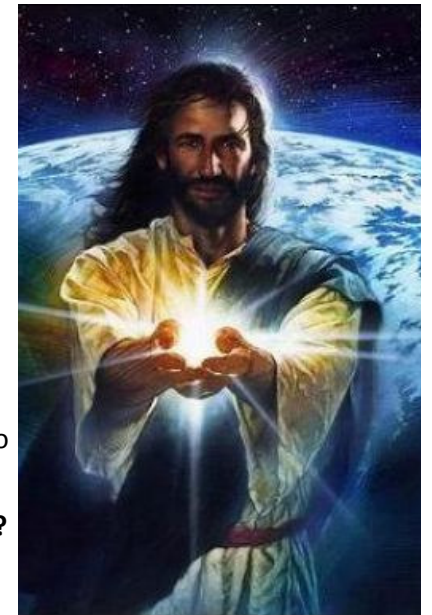
Through sin, death entered this world.

But Jesus has a solution. He has paid the price for that sin. And even though people still die, for those who are in Jesus, it is as if they are sleeping, and one day Jesus is going to come back to wake them up. On that day we will see our loved ones again. The Bible tells us that from that point on there will be no more death or morning or crying or pain.

What a God! This is available to those who follow Jesus.

WILL YOU COMMIT TO FOLLOWING HIM?

YES [] MAYBE [] NO []



LAZARUS AND ME

What did Jesus say about his friend Lazarus?

John 11:11. [p 758] _____

What did his disciples think?

John 11:12 _____

What did Jesus actually mean?

John 11:13-14. _____



Jesus did go, he saw how death affected everyone, he wept at Lazarus tomb. And asked them to take away the stone. What happened next.

John 11:41-44 _____

Just as Jesus said that his friend Lazarus had fallen asleep in death and he was going to wake him up, one day he will say the same thing for all those who have died believing in him.

“My friends have fallen asleep and I am going there to wake them up.”

What does the Bible say about this?

1 Thess 4:13 [p 837] _____

The Bible is very clear in that it wants us to know exactly what happens when people die. Death is heart-breaking, and we need to grieve and cry when someone close to us dies. But for those who die who have said yes to Jesus, we can cry with HOPE. Because of Jesus we know that one day he will come and wake this dead person up. Because of Jesus we will get to see our loved ones again.



YOU WON'T DIE#!?.

What is the biggest lie you have ever told? What do you think would be the worst or the biggest lie ever!!! If you were to rank all the lies ever told which one would come out on top?

Maybe — I think the worst lie ever told would be the very first one. It was the first deceptive act that ever occurred on this planet. It deceived our first parents and is still deceiving a lot of people. What was this lie?

Genesis 3:1-4 [p 9] _____

There it is. The first and the worst lie ever told. “You will not surely die.” The serpent deceived Adam and Eve, they took the fruit, and the devastating effects of sin entered the world. Sin causes death, separation & destruction. What happens in the very next chapter of Genesis?

Genesis 4:8 [p 10] _____ We went from a perfect world, to sin entering the world in Genesis chapter 3, to a murder, in fact there are two murders (see verse 23) in the very next chapter.

What word occurs eight times in **Genesis 5**? (last word in verse 5, 8, 11, etc _____ Sin causes death.

Things got so bad what did God do? **Genesis 6:17** _____

From a perfect world to a sinful world so full of wickedness that God destroyed it. One can see very clearly that sin causes death. The devil is a liar. Sin separates us from the life-giver. Death was never a part of God’s plan, and that is why after sin entered the world God did something about it.

What does **Romans 6:23** say?

Even though death is all around because of sin, Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life. **That’s why its so important to follow him.**



THE SOUL

The sad thing is that many people still believe in the first lie every told. "When you die," they say, "you don't really die, your soul will come back as a cow or a fly or a dog. Or you might come back as another person and live life all over again." Others say that when you die your soul goes directly to heaven or hell. What does the Bible say about this?



The word immortal can be seen to mean one who never dies. Who alone has immortality? **1 Timothy 1:17** [p841] _____

What does the Bible say about the soul that sins?

Ezekiel 18:4, 20 [p 589]. _____.

Just as the Bible tells us how we began, the Bible also explains what happens to us after we die! It's a bit like putting the movie in rewind. Write what the following verse means to you in your own words.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 [p 473] _____

This is pretty straightforward! The dust returns to the ground, and the spirit, or breath, returns to God who gave it. So what happened to the soul?

Did the soul go to heaven? Did it go to hell? Where did it go?

Remember the box? Putting the boards and nails together we got a box. Now what happens if we reverse the order and take the nails out, so we now only have nails and wood again. Where did the box go? Did it go to box heaven? Did it go to box hell?



It simply ceased to exist. So we can look at our formula again. The equations at the death of humans is

_____ - _____ = _____.

This fact could make us feel uncomfortable, but the Bible has more to say on this important topic.

WHAT DO THE DEAD KNOW?

So what do the dead know?

Ecclesiastes 9:5 [p 472] _____.

What emotions do the dead have?

Ecclesiastes 9:6 _____.

What won't be in the grave

Ecclesiastes 9:10 _____.



The dead know nothing, have no feelings and have no part in planning. So when someone says that he or she has talked to someone who has died, who do you think they would have been talking to? _____

The Bible also gives us a better way that we can understand what death is like.

The mob was throwing stones at Stephen, an early church leader. They were trying to stone him to death. Just before he died, Stephen cried out "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." What happened then?



Acts 7:60 [p 774] _____

Why would Stephen fall asleep when people were trying to kill him?

What does the next verse tell us? **Acts 8:1** _____



It seems that the Bible equates death with sleeping. When a person dies they don't go to heaven they don't go to hell, its as if they go to sleep. The Bible mentions that death is like a sleep over and over again. And when we trust the Bible, when we look at it this way, we see there is great hope.