

GROWTH GUIDE

For you. Your family. Your group.

LIVING HOPE: CHRIST IS COMING
1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18
FOR THE WEEK OF APR 18, 2021

SERMON OUTLINE

Big Idea: We have real hope now because of Christ's coming in the future.

Christ's coming gives us...

1. A hope for our grief. 1 Thess. 4:13-15
2. An urgency for our mission. 1 Thess. 4:13b
3. A reason for our confidence. 1 Thess. 4:14
4. A picture for our anticipation. 1 Thess. 4:16
5. A promise for our eternity. 1 Thess. 4:17
6. A message for our encouragement. 1 Thess. 4:18

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Looking back at your notes, is there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What does it mean to grieve with hope? Do you have any examples from your life or someone close to you who grieved with hope? How does hope differ from wishful thinking?
3. As you read Paul's description of your future in 1 Thessalonians 4:15–17, which words capture your heart most? Amid the excitement of archangels and trumpets and bodies being raised, do not overlook the end of 1 Thessalonians 4:17. Why is this the most wonderful promise of the entire passage?
4. How does this passage bring hope for us as we face the imminence of death for ourselves and those we love?
5. What is one specific way that you have given or received encouragement this week? What does it look like to encourage one another with the hope of the coming Christ?

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

1. Have you been encouraging others in their walk with Christ this week (spouse, children, small group members, co-workers)? Where could you have done better? What needs to change?
2. What have your experiences of grief been like? In what ways have you struggled in grief? In what ways have you experienced hope in grief?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray that God would grant us great encouragement, so that we may not grieve as those with no hope, but rather as those who have great hope.
2. Pray and thank God that one day we will be body and soul in the presence of Christ forever.
3. Pray for those around you who at this moment have no hope. Pray that they would see Jesus in all his saving power and beauty, and cry out to him to be saved.