

**THE DEATH
OF DEATH**
DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Call of Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15.50-58

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share plans for future Community Group gatherings and the following happening in the life of the church:

- **Men's Summit, Friday, May 11th 6:30-7:30a** | Gentlemen...join other guys from New City on Friday, May 11th from 6:30-7:30a @ the church building for a time of singing, teaching, discussion, and prayer. (And coffee and donuts.)
- **Summer Studies, coming soon** | Keep an eye out for a list of great offerings coming for June and July. We'll have men's groups, women's groups, co-ed groups, mornings, evenings. Lost of options and topics. Make sure and join one.

OPENER

A possible icebreaker question: On Saturday night Josh shared about being in line for the high dive as a 3rd grader. Have you ever been in an intimidating or scary situation? What was it?

OPENING PRAYER

Open your group in prayer. Pray extemporaneously, or use this prayer: *Lord God, help us to live into the joy of the resurrection. Open our minds and fill our hearts with the truth that we have a Risen Savior. Help us tonight to make sense of how this should impact our lives. Amen.*

STUDY/DISCUSSION

We believe that people experience and grow in their faith when they get to spend time reflecting on God's Word, and also hearing from each other. That's what we're hoping for tonight.

1. Discuss the following quote from Michael Williams: "*The resurrection is something of a foretaste, a movie trailer or commercial for God's ultimate future, for in Christ's resurrection we have a picture of the future given before its arrival. The end is seen ahead of time. As the beginning and foretaste of the future, the resurrection is the first fruits or the first stage of the coming redemption.*" During this series, have you grown at all in your understanding of the implications of Christ's resurrection? How?
2. **Read 1 Corinthians 15.50-58.** What stands out to you that is significant, challenging, or confusing?

3. Verses 50-52 — What is the *mystery* that Paul is revealing?
4. Verses 53-57 — What is the basis for Paul's taunt at death?
5. Read Isaiah 25.6-8 and Revelation 21.3-4. How do these passages help us understand what Paul is talking about in 1 Corinthians 15?
6. What is meant by the "sting of death"? How has Christ dealt with this? What does this mean for us now?
7. The Westminster Larger Catechism has some helpful language summing up the Bible's teaching on resurrection. Discuss the following together. What stands out to you?

Q. 85. Death being the wages of sin, why are not the righteous delivered from death, seeing all their sins are forgiven in Christ? A. The righteous shall be delivered from death itself at the last day, and even in death are delivered from the sting and curse of it; so that, although they die, yet it is out of God's love, to free them perfectly from sin and misery, and to make them capable of further communion with Christ in glory, which they then enter upon.

Q. 86. What is the communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death? A. The communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death, is, in that their souls are then made perfect in holiness, and received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and

Q. 87. What are we to believe concerning the resurrection? A. We are to believe, that at the last day there shall be a general resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust: when they that are then found alive shall in a moment be changed; and the selfsame bodies of the dead which were laid in the grave, being then again united to their souls forever, shall be raised up by the power of Christ. The bodies of the just, by the Spirit of Christ, and by virtue of his resurrection as their head, shall be raised in power, spiritual, incorruptible, and made like to his glorious body; and the bodies of the wicked shall be raised up in dishonor by him, as an offended judge.

8. Verse 58 — What practical application does Paul call us too at the end of the chapter?
9. Josh suggested there were 3 key phrases in this passage: a.) *O death, where is your victory?*; b.) *We shall be changed*; and c.) *Be always abounding in the work of the Lord*. Which of these do you most need to hear/apply this week? Why?

PRAYER

Take some time to pray together. This can be done together as a whole group, or in smaller groups. Exchange prayer requests.