

Grace Groups: What Happens When I Die?

Week of April 19, 2026

Theme: Death is not the end for believers—it is the beginning of being with Jesus and the promise of what is to come.

Text: Luke 23:42–43

Leader Reminder

These questions are a tool, not a checklist. Please pick and choose the ones that best serve your group. You will not cover them all. The order of importance in your group is:

1. Prayer (seek God together)
2. Connection (share life and listen well)
3. Questions (engage Scripture and sermon themes)

(Don't sacrifice the first two in order to rush through all the questions.)

Warm-Up

When you think about what happens after death, what thoughts or questions come to mind? Leader Note: Keep this light but meaningful. Allow people to share honestly without correcting or over-teaching at this stage.

Dig Deeper

1. **The thief on the cross asked Jesus to remember him, and Jesus responded, “Today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43). What does this teach us about how quickly salvation takes effect?** Leader Note: Emphasize that salvation is immediate, not delayed. Help the group see the assurance and security found in Christ.
 2. **The sermon explained that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6–8). How does this truth change the way you view death and fear?** Leader Note: Guide the conversation toward hope and confidence, not speculation. Reinforce that believers go directly into Christ's presence.
 3. **The intermediate heaven is described as real and good, but not the final destination. Why do you think it's important to understand that something even greater is still coming?** Leader Note: Help the group grasp that God's full plan includes resurrection and restoration—not just a spiritual existence.
 4. **Scripture teaches that one day we will receive glorified bodies (1 Corinthians 15:52–53; Philippians 3:20–21). How does the promise of resurrection shape the way we live today?** Leader Note: Keep the focus on future hope influencing present faithfulness. Encourage practical reflection on living with eternity in mind.
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Application

- What is one way you can live this week with a greater awareness of eternity?
- How can the promise of being with Jesus bring you peace in a current challenge or fear?

Leader Note: Encourage specific, personal application. Help people connect eternal truth to real-life decisions and emotions this week.

Prayer Focus

Thank God for the promise that believers are immediately with Jesus after death. Pray for confidence in salvation, peace over fear of death, and a deeper longing for the eternal life God has prepared.