

Small Group Discussion Guide

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. In hearing the verse, what do you think about?
2. Paul says believers “do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.” How is Christian grief different from hopeless grief? Have you experienced that difference personally?
3. What part of the promise of Jesus’ return brings you the most hope right now? What do you struggle with?
4. When you think about death, what emotions or questions rise to the surface for you? How does this passage speak into those fears or uncertainties?
5. Paul roots Christian hope in a real, bodily resurrection. Why do you think it matters that Christianity is not just about “spiritual comfort,” but about resurrection and new creation.
6. The Thessalonian church suffered deeply, yet held onto hope. What helps you keep your eyes fixed on Christ when life feels painful, discouraging, or confusing?
7. If Jesus could return at any time, how should that shape the way we live today? Are there areas of your life where you sense God calling you to greater faithfulness, readiness, or surrender?
8. Paul ends this section by saying, “Therefore encourage one another with these words.” Who in your group right now needs encouragement, hope, or comfort? What would it look like to encourage them right now and through the week?