

Adult Group Study Guide for April 12, 2020

Series: “I Believe” – “I believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.”

Goal: To celebrate the power of the resurrection and the promise of life everlasting.

Key Verses: *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. - Hebrews 2:14-15 (NIV2011)*

1. On a scale of 1-10 where does the fear of death rank compared to all the other fears you experience in your life? Is it at the top, off your radar screen, or somewhere in between? What happens inside of you when you attend a funeral for someone you love?
2. Read Revelation 21:1-5. What is the meaning of John’s vision of “a new heaven and a new earth” and the Holy City coming down out of heaven from God? We often think of heaven as a place where we go to be with God. What changes when we hear that God’s dwelling place will be with us and he will make everything new? (Romans 8:22-25; 2 Peter 3:13)
3. Pastor Austin shared three perspectives on the resurrection and our living hope: 1) Sleep and seeds, 2) Already but not yet, and 3) Eggs in baskets. Which one was most helpful in unpacking the meaning of the resurrection for you?
4. Sleep and seeds. What is helpful and unhelpful about thinking of death as a type of sleep? [It’s important for children to know the difference.] In what way is death a temporary reality? Read John 12:24 and 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-44. How does the analogy of planting a seed help us understand how new life can come out of death? Why is the death of Jesus necessary for our salvation? Why is our death necessary? (1 Corinthians 15:51)
5. Already but not yet. We live in the space between promise and fulfillment. Tony Campolo captures this tension and brings hope in a classic sermon: “It’s Friday But Sunday’s Coming.” To listen to a short (6 minute) version on You Tube, click on this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuYk_D3OwpU. What is our only hope? What are we called to do in this time between promise and fulfillment?
6. Eggs in baskets. Read Matthew 6:19-21. How does the promise of life everlasting change the way you look at life? What basket are you storing your eggs in – this life or next? What are the things that will never pass away? (1 Corinthians 13:8-13)