

AFTERLIFE

Part Five: What Are We Waiting For?

Have you ever wondered where God is? Have you ever experienced a crisis and thought, if God were present, this wouldn't be happening. Sometimes it can feel like we're on our own and God is far off, but the reality is that hope is often closer than we think!

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ESV

Bottom Line: The best way to prepare to live in Jesus' kingdom in the future is to live in Jesus' kingdom in the present.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the teachings about the second coming of Jesus that you have heard? Have you encountered teaching about the rapture or judgment day in popular culture? How have those images shaped your thinking about the 'end times'?
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. What does Paul want to 'inform' the people about? Why is this an important topic? Why does he say that they may not have to grieve as those with no hope? Where does their hope come from?
3. What is the ultimate hope that is described in this passage? In verse 18 he says to encourage one another. How can your group encourage one another in the way that he is describing in this passage?
4. Do you agree with this statement: The best way to prepare to live in Jesus' kingdom in the future is to live in Jesus' kingdom in the present? In what ways could you practically live as part of Jesus' kingdom today?

Moving Forward

Examine the 5 discipleship diagnostic questions in the sermon notes. As you think through them, what do you think God might be telling you about your life? How do you think you might need to change as a result of what you've learned about yourself and about God's future plan for His people?