

HOPE OF HIS RETURN

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1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-5:11

Jesus will _____. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

You will _____. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-8)

We will _____. (1 Thessalonians 5:9-11)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. How do you respond when someone unexpectedly stops by your home?
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 out loud. Give the group 3 minutes of silence for each person jot down as many observations as possible (repeated words, truths about Jesus, things that are striking). People can also jot down their questions about the passage. That will provide fodder for the conversation.
3. How is grief different for a Christ-follower, compared to someone who does not know Jesus?
4. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13, Paul says he is explaining the return of Jesus so that when a Christ-follower dies we would grieve with hope. How does 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 offer hope in times of grief?
5. Why is it important that “the dead in Christ will rise” physically from the grave (1 Thessalonians 4:16), not just spiritually depart to some other place?
6. Review the reasons Clayton gave why 1 Thessalonians 4:17 is not teaching a secret rapture.
7. Why is this not about Jesus whisking away believers to heaven prior to his actual return?
8. Why is speculation about the end times unhelpful? See 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3.
9. What does it look like for Christ-followers to live “awake and sober” (1 Thessalonians 5:6) in light of Jesus’ return? Look at 1 Thessalonians 5:7-8 for some ideas.

PRAYER PROMPT: Prayers of Encouragement. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” In your group, partner up in pairs or groups of three and share something that is happening in your life that you could use encouragement for (something hard or something exciting!). Then, take time to pray words of encouragement over each other specifically.