



LEADER GUIDE: 11//6//19

BIG IDEA: Death doesn't have to be a mystery

CORE SCRIPTURE:

- Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath! **Psalm 116:2**
- You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book. **Psalm 56:2**
- ¹⁹ Jesus said, "There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. ²⁰ At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. ²¹ As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. ²² "Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. ²³ The rich man also died and was buried, ²⁴ and he went to the place of the dead. ²⁵ There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side. ²⁶ "The rich man shouted, 'Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.' ²⁷ "But Abraham said to him, 'Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. ²⁸ And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.' **Luke 16:19-25**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Start **GROUPS** tonight by catching up and introducing any new students. Then, recap today's message.

- 1) What makes the topic of death and the afterlife such an interesting topic?
- 2) Have you ever lost someone you loved and how did you or how are you currently handling it? How has their death changed you? Explain. (**LEADERS NOTE:** *Start with a story from your own life. Get students to use words like mad, sad, frustrated, etc. We want them to label the emotion they feel and describe how they have impacted.*)
- 3) Why can death be a difficult thing to accept and process? Do you ever feel like you are alone and no one gets it? Talk about it. (**LEADERS NOTE:** *Reiterate what we stated earlier. Emphasize that their feelings are unique and it is okay to be a hot mess. They need to feel supported.*)

- 4) Read the passages from **Psalm 116 and 56**. If you were honest, on a scale of 1-5 (1 being very little and 5 being more than we could ever know) how much do believe God cares about our pain? Explain.
- 5) What about death scares you the most (if anything) and why?
- 6) Recall the story we read earlier about the rich man and poor man in **Luke 16**. What stood out to you about the afterlife?
- 7) Share your thoughts about this question. Does God send people to heaven or hell or do we choose if we go to heaven or hell?
- 8) Finally - discuss if today's message has made the concept of death more clear? What other questions come to mind that we haven't discussed? (**LEADERS NOTE:** *We don't have all the answers but gauge if your group has a clearer understanding of what is possible to know. Text a staff member some of the questions we "missed" or could have addressed based on your groups response.*)

Reminders and Prayer

PRAY: Identify which students are struggling with concept of death and pray for their specific need as a GROUP. Perhaps there is confusion, perhaps there is pain. Pray how you feel led for said individuals. Have at least one student pray and the leader close.

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