

Life of the World to Come
Various Verses

*These questions are provided to lead the group in **applying** the teaching from Sunday. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in being a doer of God's Word. Challenge each other and be vulnerable as God works IN and THROUGH you together.*

1. How have you engaged in the **Taste & See** October spiritual practice of thanksgiving? In what ways does thanksgiving help you experience God and be formed by him?

2. When you think about the future, what is something you genuinely look forward to?

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

3. The Nicene Creed ends talking about the end. Read Philippians 3:20-21. What does Paul say we should look forward for? Do you often find yourself looking forward to the coming of Jesus and the next life or is it something that usually is not on your radar? Why? What can we do to grow our longing for the world to come?

4. Read Isaiah 46:10, Acts 17:26, and Revelation 22:13. What encourages you most about knowing that God is in charge and is guiding history to a purposeful end?

5. Read John 11:24-26. What did Jesus say and what question did Jesus ask Martha? How would you answer that question? What does it mean that our hope is found in a person rather than simply in a promise of heaven?

6. Read Psalm 16:10 and 1 Corinthians 15:20-26. How does the firstfruits analogy of Jesus' resurrection give us confidence in our future resurrection? In what ways does believing in the resurrection change how we approach grief and the loss of someone we love?

7. Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-44. What do you find most encouraging about having a resurrected body? How might believing that God will ultimately redeem our bodies change the way we think about aging, physical limitations, and caring for our bodies?

8. Read 2 Timothy 4:1, Hebrews 9:27, and 2 Corinthians 5:10. Judgment often gets a bad rap, but what is the value of judgment? What would our world be like without judgment?

9. Read Revelation 21:1-6. What stands out to you about Revelation's description of the new heaven and new earth? What is most meaningful to you? How does the reality that God is coming down to us on earth more than us going up to him in heaven affect your concept of heaven? What are you looking forward to the most?

10. How does it encourage you that God is not looking back and restoring the old creation but is looking forward and transforming, completing, and perfecting a new creation?

11. What is one practical way you can live this week with a greater awareness of eternity? How could this change the way you approach the disappointments, struggles, fears, anxieties, and priorities?

12. How can this group pray this week for our church, you, and your thanksgiving?

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one essence with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Adapted from the *Book of Common Prayer*, 1979.