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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Life After Death Part 3: What is Death Continued

Use with the full teaching and a Bible. Read or watch first, complete the questions, then discuss and apply. For family study, an adult can select suitable portions and accept spoken answers.

Test the teaching's explanations against the cited passages. Keep the answer key and facilitator notes separate when distributing learner pages.

[Open the full teaching](#)

Teaching summary

Part 3 develops the series' view of death through the language of dust, Sheol, silence, and sleep. It argues that the dead are unconscious until resurrection. The lesson's recurring contrast is between death as the loss of life and resurrection as God's restoration of life.

The teaching understands Sheol as the grave or the condition of death. Job's descriptions of rest and waiting, and the Psalms' descriptions of silence and the inability to praise, form much of its case. These poetic passages should be read in their literary settings as well as in relation to the wider biblical argument.

Ecclesiastes describes death as the common fate of righteous and wicked people and says that the dead know nothing. The teaching joins that language to the recurring picture of sleeping in death. It understands sleep as both inactivity and a reminder that God can awaken the dead.

Daniel describes an awakening with different outcomes. The teaching connects everlasting contempt in Daniel with the dead bodies in Isaiah 66:24, distinguishing enduring disgrace from endless conscious life in punishment. This is its interpretation of the two passages, developed further in Part 7.

Paul makes resurrection essential to the gospel: if Messiah has not been raised, faith is futile and the dead in Messiah have perished. But Yeshua has been raised as the firstfruits. Those who belong to him will be raised at his coming, and the mortal will put on immortality.

The lesson closes with encouragement for believers grieving those who have died. Paul places their reunion at the Lord's coming, when the dead in Messiah rise and living believers are gathered with them. Resurrection hope gives grounds for comfort without requiring us to deny grief or settle every prophetic detail.

Summary points

- The teaching interprets Sheol as the grave or condition of death.
- Job speaks of rest in death and hope that God will remember him.
- The Psalms connect death with silence and the inability to praise.
- Ecclesiastes describes death as the common fate of righteous and wicked people.
- Sleep language expresses the lesson's expectation of a future awakening.
- Daniel's awakening has different outcomes for the righteous and wicked.
- Without Messiah's resurrection, faith is futile and the dead in him have perished.

- Yeshua is the firstfruits; those who belong to him are raised at his coming.
- At the trumpet, the dead are raised imperishable and the living are changed.
- Paul tells believers to encourage one another with the promise of reunion.

Fill in the blank

Use the teaching and the cited Bible passages. Equivalent wording is welcome when it expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. The Hebrew term the teaching identifies with the grave is _____.
2. Psalm 115:17 says that the dead do not _____ YHWH.
3. In John 11:11, Yeshua says Lazarus has fallen _____.
4. Daniel 12:2 says that many who sleep in the dust shall _____.
5. Paul calls the risen Messiah the _____ of those who have fallen asleep.
6. First Thessalonians 4:16 says that the dead in Messiah will rise _____.

Challenging

1. Job 14:13 asks God to appoint a set time and _____ him.
2. Isaiah 66:24 describes the bodies viewed by others as _____, a detail the teaching connects to Daniel 12:2.
3. If Messiah has not been raised, Paul says our faith is futile and we remain in our _____.
4. If there is no resurrection, those who have fallen asleep in Messiah have _____.
5. Paul says the mortal body must put on _____.
6. After describing the reunion at the Lord's coming, Paul tells believers to _____ one another.

Group discussion

Discuss respectfully and support answers from the passages. Use these lines for brief notes or a notebook for longer responses.

1. What do the images of dust, silence, and sleep contribute to the teaching's argument?

2. How can we read Job's grief without making his anguish a model for what everyone must feel or disclose?

3. How does the teaching use Isaiah 66 to explain everlasting contempt in Daniel?

4. Why does Paul's argument in 1 Corinthians 15 make resurrection indispensable?

5. What does the promised change from mortality to immortality tell us about our hope?

6. How can a group use Paul's words to comfort someone while respecting their grief?

Answer key

For the leader or parent. Answers follow the teaching and the passages. Accept equivalent wording that expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. Sheol

Part 3 What Is Sheol?; Job 17:16

2. praise

Psalms 115:17

3. asleep

John 11:11

4. awake (also: awaken)

Daniel 12:2

5. firstfruits

1 Corinthians 15:20

6. first

1 Thessalonians 4:16

Challenging

1. remember

Job 14:13

2. dead

Isaiah 66:24; Part 3 contempt discussion

3. sins

1 Corinthians 15:17

4. perished

1 Corinthians 15:18

5. immortality

1 Corinthians 15:53

6. encourage (also: comfort)

1 Thessalonians 4:18

Facilitator notes

These responses give direction for discussion. They are not a test of identical wording. Invite participants to explain the passages and consider a faithful practical response.

1. Dust emphasizes mortality, silence depicts the loss of activity and praise, and sleep suggests an awakening. The teaching takes these together as evidence for unconscious death; poetry still needs interpretation in its own setting.

Job 17:16; Psalm 115:17; Daniel 12:2

2. Job voices deep suffering and a longing for rest. We can acknowledge the lament and examine its language without asking participants to recount losses or adopt every expression as a detached doctrinal definition.

Job 3:11-19; 14:10-14

3. Isaiah describes dead bodies that are abhorrent to others. The teaching therefore reads everlasting contempt as enduring disgrace of the condemned, rather than proof that they remain consciously alive forever. This is an interpretive connection to be tested.

Daniel 12:2; Isaiah 66:24

4. If the dead cannot be raised, Messiah has not been raised; faith is futile, sin remains, and the dead in Messiah have perished. His actual resurrection establishes the hope of those who belong to him.

1 Corinthians 15:12-23

5. Paul promises transformation and victory over death, rather than merely the prolonging of our present vulnerable condition. The teaching understands this as embodied life, drawing also on Yeshua's risen body.

1 Corinthians 15:50-54; Luke 24:39

6. Offer the promise of reunion and lasting life with the Lord, listen, and avoid demanding emotional resolution. Paul says not to grieve without hope; he does not forbid grief. No personal disclosure is required.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Put it into practice

Choose one response to the passages. What will we do, and when will we revisit it? Share only what you are comfortable sharing.