

ASKING FOR A

FRIEND

Because someone you know is wondering

Asking for a Friend Week 4 Devotional

What Happens When I Die?

Introduction

There are questions we can avoid for a long time. We stay busy, we scroll, we keep moving, and most of the time that works. We fill our lives with enough noise that we never have to slow down long enough to think about what really matters. But eventually, life has a way of slowing us down, and when it does, something deeper rises to the surface.

What happens when I die?

I have stood at a lot of gravesides, and there is something about those moments that strips everything down. The noise is gone, the distractions are gone, and you are left face to face with a question you cannot avoid. What happens now?

There is one funeral I will never forget. The funeral home called and said they had a service with no one to do it. When I arrived, there was no crowd, no stories, just one man's brother and his wife, and they had not spoken to him in over seven years. No friends, no coworkers, no one from his life showed up. From everything I could tell, he had just worked, and when it was over, there was almost nothing to say.

Standing there, I remember thinking, is this it? Is this how it ends? There was no clear sense of who he was, no real connection, no visible hope, just silence. And I walked away realizing something I have not been able to shake. Life is more fragile than we think, and it moves faster than we expect.

Then it became personal. Last July, when I was in the hospital and they thought I might be having a heart attack, everything else faded into the background. In that moment, your mind goes to one place.

What happens when I die, and how do I get to Heaven?

When it comes to eternity, guessing is not a solid place to stand. Hoping you are good enough is not the same as knowing where you stand with God.

The good news is that Jesus does not leave us guessing. He speaks clearly, shows us what is real, and invites us into something secure.

So this week is about clarity. Not fear, not pressure, but clarity about life, eternity, the path you are on, and the invitation Jesus is giving you. And by the end of this week, the goal is simple. Not that you would know more, but that you would know where you stand.

Monday – Life Is More Fragile Than You Think

Scripture: Psalm 90:12

There are moments in life that wake you up. A funeral, a hospital room, a conversation you did not expect, a diagnosis, a loss. In those moments, everything else fades into the background. The noise is gone, the distractions do not matter, and what is left is reality.

Life is not as stable as we think it is.

Most of us live as if tomorrow is guaranteed. Not because we say it out loud, but because of how we live. We push things off, delay important conversations, and treat time like it is something we can spend without thinking about it.

But it is not.

Every single day is a gift, and not in a cliché way, but in a real, measurable way. You woke up today with something incredibly valuable. Time. And if you really believed that, it would begin to change how you live. It would reshape what you prioritize, what you hold onto, and what you are willing to let go of.

Because when you realize life is fragile, you stop treating it casually. And when you realize life is valuable, you start asking deeper questions, not just about how you are living, but about what comes after it.

Reflection Questions

Where am I assuming I have more time than I actually do?

What am I putting off that really matters?

Am I living like today is a gift or an assumption?

Prayer

God, help me see my life clearly. Wake me up to the value of the time You have given me. Teach me to live with purpose and not take another day for granted. Amen.

Tuesday – You Are Already on a Path

Scripture: Matthew 7:13-14

When people think about eternity, they often think of it as something far away, something that will happen someday. It feels distant, disconnected from the decisions we are making right now. But Jesus talks about it very differently. He makes it clear that eternity is not just something waiting at the end of life, it is something your life is already moving toward.

He says you are already on a path.

Right now. Not someday, not eventually. Today, your life is moving in a direction, and that direction is leading somewhere whether you realize it or not.

Jesus describes two roads. One is wide, easy, and crowded. It is the road most people are on, often without even thinking about it, and He says it leads to destruction. The other is narrow. It is not as obvious, not as popular, and it leads to life.

This is not about good people versus bad people. It is about direction. You can be a decent person and still be on the wrong road. You can be trying hard and still be heading somewhere you never intended to go.

And that is what makes this so important. The question is not just what happens when I die? The question is what path am I on right now? Because your current direction is already shaping your future destination.

Reflection Questions

If I am honest, what direction is my life heading?

Am I following the crowd, or intentionally following Jesus?

Have I ever truly stepped onto the narrow road?

Prayer

Jesus, help me see the path I am on. Give me clarity about my direction, and the courage to follow You, even when it is not the easy or popular road. Amen.

Wednesday – Eternity Is Real and It Is Not the Same for Everyone

Scripture: John 14:1-3, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

We live in a culture that avoids talking about eternity. We talk about life, we talk about goals, we talk about plans, but we tend to avoid the one thing we know is certain. What comes next?

Jesus does not avoid that question. He speaks clearly about what happens after this life, and He does not leave it vague or open to interpretation.

For those who trust Him, there is a promise. Not just of a place, but of His presence. To be with Him, to be known, to be home. And this is not wishful thinking or something symbolic. It is something He says He is preparing.

But He is also just as clear about the other reality. Separation. Not temporary, not symbolic, but real separation from God.

This is where people begin to feel uncomfortable, because we want to believe that it will all just work out. We want to believe that everyone ends up in the same place. But Jesus never says that. He says there are two destinations, just like there are two roads. Heaven and Hell are both real no matter how that makes us feel.

And this is not about fear. It is about truth. Because if this is real, then it matters more than anything else. It means your life is not just about the here and now. It is about eternity, and eternity is not the same for everyone.

Reflection Questions

Do I think about eternity as something real or something distant?

What am I currently trusting in when it comes to what happens after I die?

Do I have confidence or uncertainty about where I stand with God?

Prayer

God, help me take eternity seriously. Not in fear, but in truth. Give me clarity about what is real and help me not ignore what matters most. Amen.

Thursday – You Cannot Earn Your Way There

Scripture: Acts 2:22-24, Acts 2:32-36, Acts 2:37-38

Most people have some version of the same answer when it comes to getting to Heaven. Be a good person, try your best, do more good than bad. And if you press just a little deeper, it usually lands in the same place. I think I'm good.

But "I think" is not the same as "I know." And when it comes to something this important, uncertainty is not enough.

In Acts 2, Peter does not tell people to try harder or clean themselves up. He tells them about Jesus. His life, His death, and His resurrection. And when they hear it, everything shifts. They begin to realize that what they thought was enough is not enough, and it leads them to ask the most honest question a person can ask.

What do we do?

Peter's answer is clear. Not earn it, respond to it. Because the message of Jesus is not that you need to figure out how to pay the toll. It is that the toll has already been paid.

You cannot earn your way onto the narrow road, but you are invited onto it through Jesus.

Reflection Questions

Have I been trusting in my own goodness or in Jesus?

Do I have clarity, or am I still saying “I think I’m good”?

Have I truly responded to Jesus, or have I just been around Him?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for doing what I could never do. Help me stop trusting in myself and start trusting fully in You. Give me clarity about where I stand. Amen.

Friday – The Invitation Is Real

Scripture: Acts 2:38-39, Romans 10:9-10, Romans 6:3-4

This is where it becomes personal. Not what do people believe, and not what does the church teach, but what am I going to do?

Because the invitation of Jesus is not just something to understand, it is something to respond to. It calls for a real step, not just agreement in your mind.

Repentance is turning. It is not punishment or shame, but a change in direction as you turn away from sin and toward God. Faith is trust, not just believing something is true, but placing the weight of your life in His hands. Confession is allegiance, openly declaring that Jesus is Lord of your life. And baptism is union, stepping into His death and resurrection in a real and visible way, where your faith is expressed, and your life is joined with Him.

And all this flows from grace. Jesus has already paid the

cost. The road is open, and the invitation is real.

So, the question is not whether it is available, but whether you will step onto it. Heaven is not a prize for the perfect, it is a gift for the surrendered. Jesus is not asking you to get everything right before you come to Him, He is asking you to come and trust Him with your whole life.

So today, be honest. Have you trusted Him, or have you just stayed around Him? And if you know there is a step you need to take, do not delay it, because this is not about some-day, this is about now.

Reflection Questions

What step is God asking me to take right now?

Have I fully trusted Jesus, or have I stayed comfortable around Him?

What is keeping me from responding?

Prayer

God, I do not want to stay in uncertainty. I want to know where I stand with You. Give me the courage to respond, to trust, and to surrender my life fully to Jesus. Amen.

Small Group Guide

Opening Question

Think back over your life. When was a moment that made you stop and seriously think about life and what comes after it? For some, it might have been a loss, a diagnosis, or a conversation you did not expect. What was that moment for you, and what did it stir in you?

Read Together

Matthew 7:13-14, Acts 2:37-38, Romans 10:9-10

Discussion Questions

As you reflect on this week, what stood out to you the most from the devotional? Was there a moment, a phrase, or an idea that stayed with you longer than the rest?

Why do you think people tend to avoid thinking about death and eternity, even though it is something we all know is coming? What are we protecting ourselves from, or what are we afraid of facing?

There is a big difference between saying “I think I’m good” and actually knowing where you stand with God. How would you describe that difference in your own words, and where do you honestly find yourself right now?

When we talk about trusting Jesus with your whole life, not just believing in Him, what does that really mean to you? What would it look like for that trust to move from an idea into something personal and lived out?

As you think about the response we talked about, belief, repentance, confession, baptism, and surrender, which step do you feel most drawn toward right now? Is there one that feels clear, or one that you have been putting off?

Leader Insight

This conversation is not about pressure or forcing a response. It is about clarity. Create a space where people can be honest about where they are without feeling like they have to give the “right” answer. If someone is unsure, that is not a problem to fix, it is an opportunity to guide them toward understanding. Keep bringing the conversation back to Jesus and what He is inviting them into, not what they feel like they have to perform.

Challenge for the Week

At some point this week, take time to have one honest conversation with God about where you truly stand with Him. No pretending, no church language, no rehearsed answers. Just honesty. Ask Him to show you clearly what your next step is, and be willing to respond.

Closing Prayer

God, thank You for making a way through Jesus. Thank You that we do not have to guess or wonder about what matters most. I pray for clarity in every heart. For those who need to trust You, give them faith. For those who need to turn, give them courage. For those who need to take a step, give them boldness. Help us not walk away unchanged, but confident in where we stand with You. In Jesus' name, amen.

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