RE:SURRECTION

Death and all that...

Where do you go when you die?
Do you go to Heaven or Hell straight away?

If someone asked you these questions, what would you say?

What are some other ideas you have heard about life after death?

This is a **GIGANTICNORMOUS** topic which we can only start to scratch the surface of in these next pages.
So let's ease into it with a parable, shall we?

Read Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43 and write what the characters **re:**present.

The man who sowed the seed = _____
The field = _____
The good seed = _____
The weeds = _____
The enemy = _____
The harvest = _____
The harvesters = _____

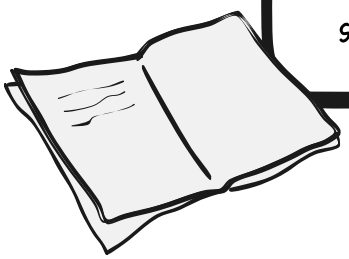
? When do the weeds get burned in the fire, and the wheat get harvested?

? Is this sorting of the weeds and wheat, the judgement of who has and hasn't chosen God? Explain your answer.

? What does this mean in terms of going to Heaven or Hell immediately after dying?

Explain the idea of going to Heaven or Hell directly after death, before the judgement, to then be judged and potentially end up somewhere else.

I have some friends who do not believe in God, although they do tend to use His name quite frequently. Funnily enough, they blame God for the bad things that happen, but don't forget - they don't believe in God!
However, when their grandma died, she was 'up in Heaven with God looking down on them'. Interesting...Grandma - up in Heaven for eternity, with a God they don't believe in, looking down on their family be sad and live in a painful world? Doesn't sound like a fun Heaven. But also, a few things don't seem to add up here...



? What do you think about the idea of Heaven being a place with no death, mourning, crying or pain. Yet if Grandma were in Heaven, she would be observing her family experiencing all those things on this earth. Would seeing that not make her sad too? (Revelation 21:4)

TABLE INVESTIGATION

As there are so many ideas around the topic of life after death, we will sort through 3 main ones with some table investigations. This is a method one can use to sort through questions in a systematic way. I will guide you with some questions and references, but you get to do the digging! Have fun!

1. Straight to Heaven

Question	Reference	Discovery
• What do the dead know?	Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, 10	
• Who is Jesus coming back to **re:**surrect at the 2nd coming if people are already in Heaven?	1 Corinthians 15:50-58 John 14:1-4	
• If people were in Heaven before the judgement, do they now go to Hell?	John 5:24-29	
• What happened to Enoch and was this an unusual experience? (since it was before the 2nd coming)	Hebrews 11:5-6	
• What do we return to?	Genesis 3:19 Psalm 146:1-4	
• What did Lazarus tell (or not tell) about his 4 days of death?	John 11:11-15 John 11:38-44	

2. Straight to Hell

Question	Reference	Discovery
• If there is a 2nd death after the judgement, what would this indicate about eternal Hell?	Revelation 20:6	
• Is Hell eternal?	2 Thessalonians 1:8-9	
• Is there any difference between burning forever or burned forever?	Psalm 37:20 Malachi 4:1-3	
• How can there be eternal burning when there will be no more crying or pain?	Isaiah 33:14	
• Could Hell be: not being in the presence of God (life) that ends in an eternal separation (death)?	Isaiah 25:8 Matthew 25:41-46	
• Could Hell be on Earth when Satan is roaming and if so, what happens to it?	Revelation 20:7-10 Revelation 21:1	

3. Death = sleep

Question	Reference	Discovery
• Did Jesus go to Heaven immediately when He died?	1 Corinthians 15:3-4 John 20:17	
• How did Jesus describe the death that people are raised from?	Daniel 12:2 Mark 5:35-40 John 11:11-14	
• When are people being raised from their sleep and what happens to death?	1 Corinthians 15:20-28	
• How long does sleep continue for?	Job 14:10-12	
• How are death and sleep similar?	Psalm 115:17 Revelation 14:13	
• What does cemetary (koimētērion) mean in Greek?	Google	

Re:surrection means to be raised to life again. I am glad this word exists because it is a great solution for us who live in a world with a problem called death.
As much of a mystery as death can seem to be, God hasn't hidden the details from us. The following verses are key for us to **re:**member.

Read **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** and fill in the blanks.

'13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be _____ about those who _____ in _____, so that you do not _____ like the rest of mankind, who have ____ _____. 14 For we believe that Jesus _____ and _____ again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have _____ _____ in _____. 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the _____ of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have _____ _____. 16 For the Lord himself will _____ down from _____, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the _____ in _____ will _____ first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up _____ with them in the clouds to _____ the Lord in the _____. And so we will be _____ the Lord _____. 18 Therefore _____ one another with these words.'

? Do you feel encouraged by this message?

o Summarise these verses in a few dot points to help you **re:**member them.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

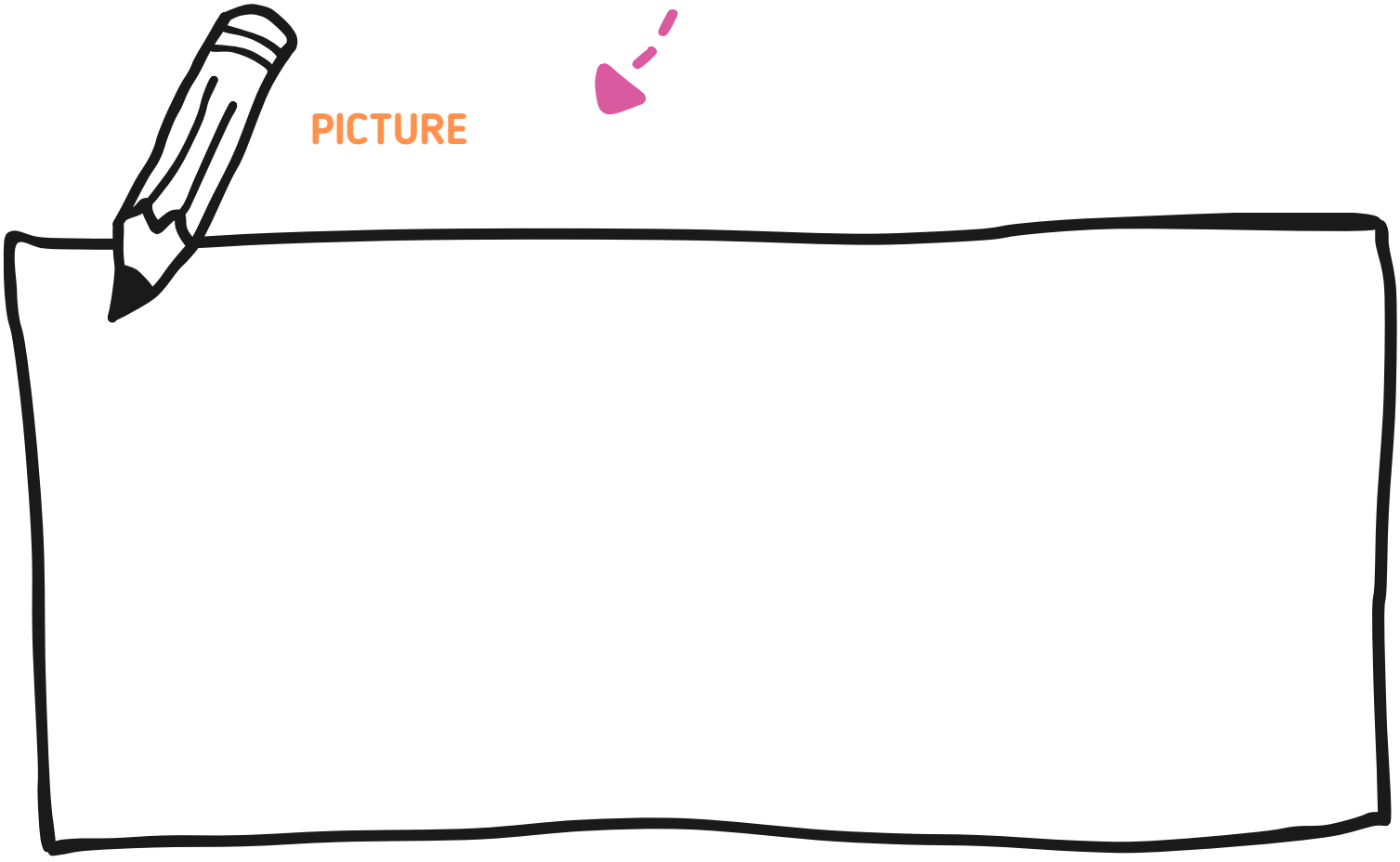
Read **Romans 6:23** and fill in the blanks.

'For the _____ of sin is _____, but the _____ of God is _____ _____ in Christ Jesus _____ Lord.'

? If eternal life is the opposite of eternal death, what does that mean for a peaceful, sin-free future in Heaven?

? If the wages or payment for sin is death, is this different to 'Hell' being the payment or result of sin?

- What feelings and thoughts do you have when the death topic comes up?
- What gives you comfort and hope when someone dies?
- What are your thoughts on that God created a world with no intention of death, yet the world now experiences it?
- Do you think it was necessary for Jesus to die? Explain.
- What are some new ideas and understandings you have gained from this conversation and has anything challenged you?



Draw something to represent your thoughts and feelings after this moment together. Or, if you are not thrilled about drawing, go back through today's gathering and use a colour or symbol, underline or circle the words that stood out to you. Is there a theme in what you noticed?

SONG

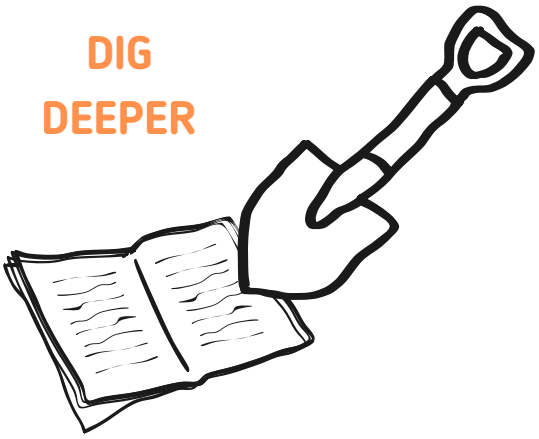
Living Hope - *Phil Wickham*

QUOTE

Spiritual decisions are so significant because eternity lasts so long.

- Mark Finley

DIG DEEPER



Extra verses to extend the exploration!

Luke 20:34-38

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

Isaiah 65

PONDER

- What does this promise of eternal life mean to you, and how does it help you in times of separation and sadness?
- Given that everyone dies, does this change how you live / should live / believe someone should live?
- Sleep is not the most common understanding of death. How will you share this with someone going through the loss of a loved one?

WORD

Summarise this time together in 1 word or sentence.

*What is something you want to **re:**member?*

Use this word now in a short prayer between you and God.

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