



BIG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

7.11/12.09 // WHY-FI – Questions About Death

BIG IDEA: God calls us out of death to life.

// **Ice Breaker** _____

Option 1: In the movies, the superheroes are immortal. Was there ever a time when you wished you could be immortal and not die? What do you think this would be like?

Option 2: When you were growing up, what were you told about the death of a loved pet? How did that make you feel?

// **Questions for Discussion** _____

1. Read Genesis 1:27

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Why is everyone's life considered sacred by God? If our culture doesn't believe this, what kinds of problems occur?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

Do you think cremation should be a matter of personal preference? Why?

3. When is it OK to donate organs? What would be the benefits?

4. Exodus 20:13 says 'You shall not murder', meaning not to take an innocent life. Under what circumstances do you think it would be appropriate to end someone's life to end their misery? Why have some countries (for example the Netherlands) legalized doctors ending someone's life? What are some alternatives?

5. **Modern medicine has the ability to support life when someone would normally die. Under what circumstances do you think it would be good to use life support systems to prolong life? When would it not be good?**
6. **The Bible does not have a specific law about suicide. What are some potential spiritual and practical problems with suicide?**
7. **Read John 10:10** I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

What could you say to someone who is thinking about suicide? What resources are there to help them?

8. **Read: John 3:16** ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

As Christians we know we are going to heaven when we die. How does this affect the way we view death?

// Application _____

Commit to memory Romans 14:8

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Modern medicine can prolong life by using means of artificial support. Discuss and pray with your loved ones what you think would be appropriate at the end of your life. Develop an Advanced Directive to document these wishes.

// Prayer _____

**Pray for all human life to be seen as sacred in God's eyes.
 Pray for those struggling with suicidal tendencies.**