



HOUSE GROUPS

HOUSE Groups: *Discussion Questions*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 *16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

Question 1: In verse 13, Paul says he doesn't want believers to "sorrow as others who have no hope." How does Christian hope transform the way we grieve loss compared to the world?

Question 2: What does it mean to be "asleep in Jesus" (v. 14)? Why do you think Paul uses the word *sleep* instead of *death*?

Question 3: Verse 14 promises that God will bring with Jesus those who have "fallen asleep." How does this affect your perspective on loved ones who have died in Christ?

Question 4: Paul assures the Thessalonians that believers who are alive will not precede those who have died (v. 15). Why might this have been a concern in the early church?

Question 5: Verse 16 describes the Lord's descent "with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God." What do you think the significance of these dramatic signs is?

Question 6: Why do you think “the dead in Christ will rise first” (v. 16)? What does this say about God’s care for both the living and the dead?

Question 7: Verse 17 introduces the idea of believers being “caught up” to meet the Lord in the air. How does this passage shape your understanding of the rapture?

Question 8: How would you explain the difference between the rapture described here and the Second Coming of Christ as described elsewhere in Scripture?

Question 9: Paul concludes that “we shall always be with the Lord” (v. 17). How does this eternal promise encourage believers facing suffering today?

Question 10: In verse 18, Paul instructs the church to “comfort one another with these words.” What are practical ways we can encourage one another with the hope of Christ’s return?

Question 11: How might the certainty of Jesus’ return influence your daily priorities, decisions, or spiritual disciplines?

Question 12: If a nonbeliever asked you to explain the hope described in this passage, how would you summarize it simply and clearly?