

Everyone has dreams, aspirations, and hopes for the future. However, we also like to keep those things hidden in the depths of our souls. Fear keeps those secret goals locked deep inside of us. In this series we are exploring the impact of fear and how we come overcome the fears in our lives by living as people of faith.

Icebreaker: Recall the first time you went to a funeral. What impressions did that event have on you? Was there anything that left a lasting impression?

1. Why does death seem to be something that can be both fascinating and yet frightening at the same time?
2. Read Hebrews 2: 14-15: In this passage, how is the fear of death described? How can this be? Why is the devil illustrated here as the one who has the power of death?
3. Read Romans 6:23: Where did death come from? How does it make you feel to know that death was not part of God's plan for the human race? Why did God allow death to penetrate the world (Genesis 2:15-17)?
4. Read John 14:1-6: Talk a little about what was going on prior to this passage? Why did Jesus tell his disciples to not be troubled?
 - a. Why is death troublesome? Where does the fear of death come from?
 - b. Jesus tells his disciples to not be troubled and that they are to believe in God and to believe in him. In other words, it seems as though Jesus is telling them that faith in Jesus can dispel fear. How can faith dispel fear? If that is true, is there a link between fear and the lack of faith? Explain.
 - c. What assurance does Jesus give us that there is more to come? How does that make you feel? Do you think most humans feel that there is more to life than what we see here on earth? Why?
 - d. What does it mean to you to know that Jesus is preparing or building a place for all his followers in heaven? What do you think it will be like?
 - e. Jesus says the way to heaven is something we can know. What is that way? Is there any other way to heaven?

This week to further your study on the topic of life after death please read 1 Corinthians 15 and the first three chapters of Romans.

Prep for next week: If you knew you had 30 days to live, how would your life be different? What would you focus your time on doing? Read James 3:13-18 as preparation for next weeks topic, "Living the Dash." Close in Prayer.
