

# LIFE BEYOND THE GRIEF - 6

## Contagious Christianity

"I want you to know what happens to a Christian when he dies so that when it happens, you will not be full of sorrow, as those are who have no hope."  
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13

The Bible doesn't say, Christians don't grieve, it says Christians grieve with the confident anticipation of a coming reunion.

Most people ask, "What happens *when* we die?" A far better question is, "What happens *after* we die?" As followers of Jesus Christ, we don't grieve as those who have nothing to look forward to, as if the grave were the last word. "*Since Jesus died and broke loose from the grave, God will most certainly bring back to life those who died in Jesus*" (vs 14, the Message). Because of God's great promises, you can face the future--not with a question mark, but with an exclamation point!

### Welcome

Share something about what God has been doing in your life this past week.

### Worship

Center your time around songs and scripture that express the marvelous hope we have, whether facing the thought of our own dearth, or when standing at the grave of a loved one in Christ.

### Word

#### Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. Who have you been closest to through their dying days? What effect did their death have on you?
2. According to this passage, what is the basis of the hope we have as Christians?
3. Do you ever struggle in your confidence about what the Bible teaches about life after death? If so, why?
4. What particular passage has God used to encourage and comfort you in times of grief? What make it so meaningful? What people has God used to minister to you in your grief? Why were they so helpful? What does this imply about how we should encourage one another in times of loss?
5. How is your hope in the coming of the Lord most evident in your life?

### Works

This week, prayerfully watch for someone that you can minister to--either encouraging them in their own grief, or helping them to think about their need to invest in eternity.