

This midweek study will explore why it's important for students to recognize that all humanity has inherited a sin nature that can only be overcome through the power of the Holy Spirit. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: Life After Death

The Bible teaches that when a Christian dies, he or she immediately is with the Lord (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8). This is what some people call an intermediate state, given that the final state for believers takes place at the future resurrection (Rev. 6:10-11). For those who are not in Christ, life after death results in being separated from Christ in a state of suffering, even though future judgment remains (Luke 16:19-31).

1 After death, everyone who believes in Jesus will be with Him (John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:8).

Read 2 Corinthians 5:8.

- ▶ *It seems like we wait a long time to be with Jesus once we are saved. How does it feel to know that as soon as you die, you are immediately with Him and nothing else will hold you back?*
- ▶ *Does this reality change your outlook of death? How so?*

Read John 3:16.

- ▶ *How does this verse give confidence to a believer in the face of death?*
- ▶ *Share about a time when you watched a Christian who was facing a terminal illness. How did that person act? Did he/she have peace about death or seem anxious? How did this affect you?*

2 Everyone who doesn't believe in Jesus will be separated from Him (Matt. 13:49-50; 2 Thess. 1:6-9).

Read Matthew 13:49-50.

Based on these verses, ask students to describe what they think hell is like. Encourage them to be as specific as possible.

- ▶ *Can you imagine spending eternity in a place like this, having no escape from the physical, emotional, and spiritual torment of God's judgment? Explain.*

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9.

- ▶ *What words or phrases stick out to you in this passage? Why?*
- ▶ *Many people claim they know God, but how can people be sure if they genuinely know Him?*

3 Eternal reality should motivate us to reach others with the gospel (Matt. 3:2; Luke 10:2; Rom. 8:7-8).

Read Luke 10:2.

- ▶ *Have you ever been assigned to do a project or task for which you didn't feel prepared or equipped? How did you accomplish the assignment despite that?*
- ▶ *What did Jesus mean when He said that the "harvest is abundant, but the workers are few"? How can more workers be added?*
- ▶ *What did Jesus command His disciples to do first after hearing this? Why is prayer so important?*

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *Think of at least three people in your life who have never placed their faith in Jesus. How does the reality of life after death motivate you to share the gospel with these people?*
- ▶ *What are some steps you need to take to make sure you do all you can to bring these people to a knowledge of saving faith?*