

LIFE Meeting

Life and Death

April 6, 2016

1. Opening Prayer

Anna

2. Skit

3. Small Group: Various deaths

4. Large Group: Witness Talk

5. Small Group: Life through death

6. Large Group: Wrap Up

7. Closing Prayer

Megan

- **Next Meeting: Friday May 13th (Service/Mission)**
- **Planning Meeting April 20th**

Opening Prayer

When I get where I am Going

Brad Paisley

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbFz2F_YYzI

Interlock your fingers in order that our strengths cover up each other's weaknesses.

When I get where I'm going
On the far side of the sky
The first thing that I'm gonna do
Is spread my wings and fly
I'm gonna land beside a lion
And run my fingers through his mane
Or I might find out what it's like
To ride a drop of rain

Yeah when I get where I'm going
There'll be only happy tears
Hallelujah
I will love and have no fear
When I get where I'm going
Yeah, when I get where I'm going

Yeah, when I get where I'm going
There'll be only happy tears
I will shed the sins and struggles
I have carried all these years
And I'll leave my heart wide open
I will love and have no fear
Yeah, when I get where I'm going
Don't cry for me down here

I'm gonna walk with my granddaddy
And he'll match me step for step
And I'll tell him how I missed him
Every minute since he left
Then I'll hug his neck

Yeah, when I get where I'm going
There'll be only happy tears
I will shed the sins and struggles
I have carried all these years
And I'll leave my heart wide open
I will love and have no fear
Yeah, when I get where I'm going
Don't cry for me down here

So much pain and so much darkness
In this world we stumble through
All these questions I can't answer
So much work to do
But when I get where I'm going
And I see my Maker's face
I'll stand forever in the light
Of His amazing grace

This song is a positive way to look at death. It's not all bad, in death we also find peace knowing our loved ones are with God, safe from all evils. Death is not the end, it's truly only the beginning. When we get where we are going, to heaven that is, we will truly know God, all questions will be answered, and we will be with him for all eternity. Although eternity seems scary sometimes, we have to keep in mind that it will be nothing like this earth. In heaven we will only feel our happiest emotions like joy and love. Like he says in the song, we will shed the weight of our sins and struggles we've carried our whole lives. There will be only love and no fear. Ask God to help us also have no fear of death or even of life. As your people let us joyfully proclaim, may the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Amen. Sign of cross.

Life and Death Skit

Nathan sitting taking a test

Michael comes in dressed as death, picks up Nathan's test, writes a giant F on it and circles on it

Michael- "DEATH"

Anna reading Marley and me

Michael comes in and drop-kicks a stuffed animal puppy

Michael- "Marley dies"

Nathan (to Megan) - "hey baby girl"

Megan walking by and Michael trips her

Megan - "oh my gosh I'm so embarrassed he's so cute!"

Michael - "Death"

Ali walking, she drops her phone and shatters it

Ali - "oh no! I just broke my brand new iPhone!!!"

Michael- "death"

Katie walks on with dead flowers

Katie - "my flowers died!"

Michael - "death"

Grant and Natalie sitting together

Grant - "I think we should break up..."

Natalie - *cries*

Michael - "death"

Death occurs in all parts of life. Each time you get a bad grade, or a character dies in a book or movie, or you embarrass yourself, break your phone, your plant dies, or you end a friendship or relationship, it's like a mini death. We have to deal with mini deaths almost every day, but we can get through them, just like we can get through real deaths.

Small Group

Hold hands and interlock fingers so that all the weaknesses in the group are covered by each other's strengths.

(Revelation 21: 3-5)

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

Reflection

Because Jesus died for our sins and our salvation, we will not die. Jesus has conquered death and thrown open the gates of Heaven for us. We do not need to fear death anymore because we will live eternally in God's loving presence. Because God loves us, we live. As your people let us joyfully proclaim, may the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.

Small group #1 questions:

- How did you feel about the skit?
- What smaller death have you faced recently? ie: grades, friendships, places
- Do you mourn these smaller deaths, if so how? If not, why not?
- Do you feel like your spiritual life ever dies?
- How do you resurrect things that have died in your life? Or should the things in our lives that have died, died for a good reason and should stay dead?

Smaller deaths very closely relate to the death of someone important to you because you feel the same emotions as you do for a loved one's death but just on a smaller scale.

Life and Death by Sri Aurobindo

Life, death, – death, life; the words have led for ages
Our thought and consciousness and firmly seemed
Two opposites; but now long-hidden pages
Are opened, liberating truths undreamed.
Life only is, or death is life disguised, -
Life a short death until by Life we are surprised.

Questions

- Allow anyone to open up if they want to talk about a personal experience they have involving death.
- Do you think that death and life are more closely related than we think?
 - Do you think that Life and Death are opposites, or not?
- Are you scared of death?
- Are you scared of others' deaths?
 - (family members dying, pets dying)
- Any other reflections about the poem?

Second Small Group

Small group #2 questions:

- How did you feel about Mr. Caskey's witness talk?
 - What were some things that stood out to you?
- Allow to talk about death experiences if someone is ready to do so, if not go on and come back to this.

Turn Again to Life by Mary Lee Hall

If I should die and leave you here a while,
be not like others sore undone,
who keep long vigil by the silent dust.
For my sake turn again to life and smile,
nerving thy heart and trembling hand
to do something to comfort other hearts than mine.
Complete these dear unfinished tasks of mine
and I perchance may therein comfort you.

Questions

- Do you agree with the point of view from the poem I just read to you?
- How do you grieve and mourn for those you have lost?
 - Pets, grandparents, other family members or friends
 - Do you turn to God during these times?
- How would you want people to act at your funeral?
 - laughing, remembering the "good ole times" or crying because they missed you
- How do you come terms or accept death?
- Would you feel differently if someone died unexpectedly, rather than knowing they were dying?
 - Have any of you been in any situations like this?
- Jesus knew he was going to be put to death, how do you think he handled this?
 - Could you do what Jesus did for us?
 - How do you think his apostles felt after watching His Passion, and then 3 days later Him being among them again?

Spontaneous Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer

Video of Loved Ones

Pope Paul VI once said, "Somebody should tell us, right at the start of our lives, which we are dying. Then we might live life to the limit. Every minute of every day. Do it! I say. Whatever you want to do, do it now! There are only so many tomorrows." We should not let the thought of dying slow us down. We should live each day to the fullest and not be scared to take risks. We just saw many great people in our lives who have gone on to a bigger and better life in Heaven with God. In the end Heaven is our final destination and we should live our lives in preparation to get to the desired destination. Like the song said, "Live like you are dying." Weather that means doing something extremely crazy like skydiving or something small like trying sushi for the first time. We should live each minute of the day to the fullest.