

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Ice Breaker: What's an evidence of God's grace you've seen this week?

Ice Breaker: What is your favorite hymn or song that proclaims the coming of the Lord?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Literary Context:** What did Paul call the Thessalonian church to pursue in the passage immediately prior to this text?
2. What can you faithfully assume is happening within the Thessalonian church that leads Paul to teach them about the coming of the Lord?
3. What reasons does Paul give that make it possible for Christians to grieve with hope? What is the foundation of their hope?
4. What are the key components of this day as Paul describes it in our passage? What should we expect to experience when the Lord returns?
5. Paul wants us to encourage one another with this hope of life after death. What are some right ways and wrong ways to address someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one?
6. How should this hope of the second coming of Christ change the way we live now? What should be true of Christians who have this future hope?
7. There are many who are grieving the loss of loved ones this year. Take some time to pray through the prayers posted on the Prayer Wall as a group and any others who are grieving.