

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE –

Easter Sunday “The Death of Death” – 2 Timothy 1:10

FELLOWSHIP

There are a few things that all humans have in common, unfortunately, one of them is death. Though it is a topic that we try to avoid in our culture, everyone faces it. Whether it is our own mortality or walking through the experience with someone else. Though it's inevitable, the fear and dread of it cause most to avoid discussing or preparing for it. Also, it usually involves some kind of pain, either physical or emotional. Pain is the other side of the death coin when it comes to things we inherently want to avoid. This adds to the stark reality that there is really no greater enemy or foe of humanity. Death shows no partiality, whether young or old, rich or poor, educated or ignorant, healthy or sickly, all people will succumb to it. Pastor Brian gave the staggering statistics: Three people die every second, 180 every minute, nearly 11,000 every hour, about 260,000 every day, 95,000,000 every year. The Greek Philosopher Epicurus said, “It is possible to provide security against other ills, but as far as death is concerned, we men live in a city without walls.” The Google generation can do their own search of the celebrity obituary from 2016 and be confronted with the truth that they are on borrowed time. All of this makes the significance of Easter that much more weighty.

PRAY, READ, DISCUSS

Read **2 Timothy 1:8-10** out loud together, with special focus on the latter half of verse 10. Discuss ways to apply this passage to our daily lives: *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of **our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.***

- Instinctively our bodies and minds are designed to survive and to avoid death. The body is designed to repair, heal, replace, and perpetually exist. What changed that? The Bible says that rejecting God was a capital offense. (Genesis 2:17) Death was the virus that being introduced breaks down bodily regeneration. But since it is the consequence of a divine judgement, only a divine pardon can relieve it. Read Hebrews 9:27, Romans 5:12, and 1 Corinthians 15:56. What was a time where death had a big impact on you? How did your relationship with God help you process this loss?
- The cross and resurrection were the highlight of Jesus' humanity. Since Christ did not carry the stain of sin, his death appeased and satisfied the judgement of God, and his resurrection proved humanity's liberation. Read 1 Cor 15:54-57 and John 11:24-27. Confronted with her brother Lazarus' death, Jesus asks Martha a very straight forward question. Why was Martha's initial statement right or wrong? What aspect of Jesus had she not yet grasped? How do we apply these truths when we lose loved ones today? Read John 11:11 & 1 Corinthians 15:20-22. Why does Paul refer to Christians who have died as sleeping?
- Our culture is on a futile quest for immortality. Read Revelation 21:1-7. How does God's *fountain of life* differ from the legends of a *fountain of youth*? How can we use humanity's quest for immortality as a gospel opportunity?

PRAY

The spring season is full of life and renewal, and reminds us of God's new starts. Who are you praying about sharing Christ with?



Community Group Leader Guide
Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen's message on April 16, 2017.
Watch: <https://cccm.com/teaching/cccmaster/video/the-death-of-death/>