



WALKING BY THE WAY

READ | GATHER | WALK



Hope of the Resurrection

 **Walk:** Visit the grave of a believer. This could be someone from your family, from your church or from church history. What do you remember about this person and their impact on others? You may even bring flowers as a tribute. Consider the hope that Christians have when they die or when they are grieving the loss of a fellow Christian.

 **Talk:** Read I Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. In verse 13 what does Paul call those who have died? Throughout the New Testament this is a term used for the dead who are believers in Christ. Why is this term appropriate?
2. The death of a loved one always brings sadness and grief, but why does Paul say it is hope-filled for Christians grieving a fellow saint? How is this hope different than a person hoping to get to heaven because of his or her good works?
3. What do these verses say that Jesus has already done (verse 14)? What do they say that He will do? (Verse 16)
4. How does this coming of the Lord compare to His first coming that we celebrate around Christmas?
5. Death involves separation from those we love, but verse 17 gives us a promise of reunification. Who else does it say we will be with and for how long?
6. Christians who are alive now are “of the day” meaning they still have work to do. In I Thessalonians 5:8 what does it tell Christians to put on? Why?
7. We are told to encourage one another about the hope of the resurrection. Who do you know that might particularly need that encouragement? How can you help bring that encouragement?

 **Pray:** Dear God, thank You for the sure hope of the resurrection You give to every believer. We thank You for coming into the world, living, dying and rising again from the dead to conquer sin and death on our behalf. We thank You for the promise that You are coming back again and will take all believers to be with You forever. We pray for those who do not know this hope, that they might turn from sin and trust in You completely for their salvation and their resurrection. Amen!

 **Sing:** The Solid Rock (Include the last verse “When He shall come . . .”)

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I THESSALONIANS 4:13-18



SCAN FOR ADDITIONAL REOURCES