

LESSON 1
Attitudes about Death

1. Describe how Heb. 9:27 is either a personal promise to you or more like a distant philosophical possibility.
2. List some euphemisms that people use for death, dying, dead, etc.
3. List some common expressions that refer to dying, killing, etc., but do not literally mean that one dies or has the intent to kill (for example: "I've been dying to meet you").
4. What are some ways we and our culture shield ourselves and others from exposure to death?
5. How can your/my death be precious in the sight of God (Ps.116:15)?
6. Do you believe we have a "right to die?" How far are we allowed to go to allow, hasten, or precipitate our own death?
7. What are some things we may fear or regret losing at our own death? (Example: activities, relationships, possessions)
8. How can the day of our death be better than the day of our birth (Eccl. 7:1)?
9. Read II Cor. 5:1-5. Is Paul expressing concern, reluctance, or even fear of dying (being unclothed)? Is this inconsistent with his statement in Phil. 1:21-23? Why or why not?
10. What are some ways to spiritually and physically prepare for death?

LESSON 2
Attitudes about Death

1. What are some of the things you do to keep from thinking about and preparing for your own death?

2. Have you ever meditated to try to conceive eternity? If so, what were some of your conclusions or realizations?

3. Compare the time element of Ps. 90:4 with II Pet. 3:8. What are the comparisons telling us about perception of time?

4. What do you think the secret or hidden sins are of Ps. 90:8 and Ps. 19:12,13?

5. Would it be desirable to “know the end of our days and the extent of our days” (Ps. 39:4)
Why or why not?

LESSON 3
Ecclesiastes 1 – 5

1. You have never known this world without you in it. Can you conceive of the world, even your family continuing without you?

What are You doing to try to ensure that your life is not a vain waste?

2. What one particular goal, accomplishment or possession that you think will bring you the most fulfillment and happiness?

Have you ever had a gift or possession, or attained a goal or reward that you thought would be your greatest happiness?

What was it and how long did that fulfillment last?

What does this tell you about goals you are working toward now?

3. What do you plan to do with all your possessions when you die?

Are there heirs that you think would probably go through an inheritance foolishly?

4. If you knew you were to die at midnight tonight, what would be the three most important things to accomplish in that time?

Do you know that you will live past midnight tonight?

What hinders you from doing those three things that are so significant?

5. Are you satisfied with your earthly accomplishments like education, prosperity, house, car, retirement fund?

Do you find that you are satisfied with your spiritual growth and development?

6. Does your outlook on life cause you to focus on some future condition or event before you can be happy, or do you view life as a journey to be enjoyed and cherished at each point along the way?

What caused you to have that viewpoint?

LESSON 4
Ecclesiastes 6 – 9

1. Why is a good reputation, a good name, one of the most valuable possessions we can have?

Why is it important to our children that we have a good name?

2. How can the day of our death be called *better* than the day of our birth?

3. Do you find yourself avoiding visiting the dying, going to funerals, or trying to comfort the grieving? Why?

What do you do with the command in Romans 12:15, to weep with them that weep?

4. In Eccl. 7:16 are we commanded to go out and sin some?
Could we be in danger of becoming too righteous?
What do verses 16 & 17 mean to you?

LESSON 5
Ecclesiastes 10 - 12

1. When setting goals, or facing temptation how reliably do you remember to think how it will affect your eternity?

Do you feel thinking about your eternity makes, or will make you happier or will it make you miserable? Why?

2. What are some things you can do to help and encourage someone who is suffering as a Christian, facing hardship and tragedy, or even death?

3. Do you find yourself appreciating each day you have to live and enjoy the moments, or do you find yourself more often wishing for either the good old days or some upcoming event?

At the end of life, what regrets do you think you might have concerning the way you used and appreciated each day?

When did you start setting goals and working toward what you have and are now?

4. At what age do you feel that life will no longer have anything to offer and will not be worth living?

5. Do you feel you would like to accomplish something that will outlast you; it will continue after your life comes to an end?
What is it?

What are you doing to accomplish this goal?

How will it benefit you and/or your loved ones spiritually?

LESSON 6
The Process of Dying

1. When it is your turn to die would you rather your death to be sudden and unexpected or would you prefer a much longer time to face death and make preparations?

Why?

2. If you knew someone close to you was dying, how do you think that would change your attitude and behavior toward them?

Why?

3. Could you talk with someone about their own imminent death?

What do you think would help you to be able to do that?

At such a time could you talk with them about their spiritual condition?

4. What physical arrangements have you made to prepare for your own death?

What spiritual preparations have you made to prepare for your own death?

LESSON 7 THE GRIEVING

1. Why is it important to grieve appropriately at the right time?

What does grieving mean to you?

How do you express your grief privately?

How do you express your grief before and with others?
2. Create a list of things you can do to help someone who has lost a spouse. Remember, there may be some things they absolutely do not want you to do without asking, such as putting away the dead loved one's possessions, clothes, cleaning the room, even their laundry.
3. What can you do and what are you willing to do to include someone who has lost a spouse into your group when they are ready begin socializing with others?
4. How long do you feel a person must grieve before they can acceptably rejoin society by attending gatherings, going to parties, enjoy laughter, even date?
5. What might you say to a child who has lost a parent or sibling?

LESSON 8
STAGES OF GRIEF

1. What are the 5 stages of grief we have discussed?
2. What are you afraid of when you think of your own death?
3. Do you think that when a person is given a terminal diagnosis they should be forced to acknowledge and accept it right away, or should they be allowed to live in denial?

Why?

4. What would be your reaction if a dying person lashes out at you in anger about their own terminal condition?

Would you be willing to accept a call from them at 3 a.m. when they need someone to talk with about their own dying?

Would you later be able to hold their hand and be with them when they are dying?

5. Would you find it easier to tell the person near death, "It's okay, I will be here with you until the end; I won't abandon you," or say to them, "Don't give up. Be a man?"

LESSON 9
Facing Death in the Bible

1. What is it to glorify God or to glorify someone else?

How did Peter's and Paul's deaths glorify God (John 21:19-22; Phil. 1:20)?

How can you glorify God in your own death?

2. Do you feel that your life is in God's hands, or do you feel you have to control it all?

Is your life something you do or something that happens to you?

What are some things about your death over which you can have control?

3. As you reflect on your life, do you find yourself trying to make bargains with God in order to get your way?

4. Have you talked, or do you talk with your family about death and communicated your desires about different aspects of before, during, and after the death of each of you?

What are some things that would need to be discussed which would ease the burden on those who survive?

5. The word "for" in II Cor. 4:17 points back to the decay of the outer man in v. 16. Do you think it has reference to our decline and death?

How does this "light affliction" produce an eternal weight of glory?