



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 2

**Seasons and
Celebrations**
Death

Bible Readings

Ecclesiastes 3

Ecclesiastes 9

Daniel 3

1 Corinthians 15



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the theme of death in the Bible.
- Express the theme or story in your own way.
- Apply your learning from this issue to your own life and community.

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question What does the Bible have to say about death?

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

Share about a time you remember feeling an inside reaction to hearing about the death of someone – a relative, a friend or schoolmate, a celebrity, a pet, etc.

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: 1 Corinthians:12-19, 35-49

Modern society doesn't handle death that well, probably because it is generally hidden well and most people don't encounter it too often or at all.

Ideas that can be found in these passages:

1. Everyone will die.

Although modern knowledge and resources seem to be increasing the lifespan of humans, human stupidity is also contributing to shorter lifespan (e.g. poor eating, drinking and exercise habits are contributing to life-shortening illnesses, diseases and physical and mental states; risky driving and other life-endangering activities; in addition to all the other activities that lessen the quality of a life lived like drugs; early and multiple partner sexual activities, etc).

Modern Western culture isn't completely comfortable with death being a reality for all; possibly because it likes to deny that our actions have any lasting consequences.

2. Our timing and circumstances of death is likely to be unpredictable.
Our own efforts to avoid death don't always succeed. See above point.
3. Knowing we will die can inspire us to live well, to ensure that we live a life worth living.
The judgment of 'quality' is open to debate. The Bible does hint at some of God's considerations of a worthy life.
4. Death is not feared when you've lived a worthy life. The length of life lived is not equal to the quality of life lived. How a person fears death gives us insight into what they judge as a worthy life.
5. The Bible speaks of an existence beyond death, which not only emphasises the importance of living a life worth living in this life, but provides us with the exciting hope of building further on the worthy life lived already, no matter how it ended. It is important to not get too caught up with the details of what that existence might be like (though it is definitely not just people flapping their wings with nothing to do for all eternity but float around and sing songs), but to see that the existence beyond death should be something that energises us to be more what God intended us to be, rather than just sit around passively waiting for the end of this life to occur.

Explore – Integrate

- Knowing that you will die some day, how will that help you decide how you live today in all big and small decisions you face?

Is each thing you worry about important if your life ended?

Is this something I should worry about for a big chunk of my time and energies when I'm thinking about my life?

- Knowing things will end eventually, what things do you worry about that will be forgotten about in 3 years, or 5, 10 or 25 years later? Remember that God has a different perspective on time than we currently do.
- What do you want to be remembered for and how will you ensure you will be remembered for it?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need, or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Pray and give thanks for the life of someone close and why you are thankful they are currently living.

Pray for those who might have lost someone recently and help them sense God wanting them to remember what was worthy about their lives.

Pray that everyone (including you) might be reminded that we need to live worthy lives, especially through the eyes of God.