



BIG QUESTION

What happens when we die?

CAMPFIRE | WEEK 3 OF 5

Eternity

GOD STORY

The Father's House

John 14:1-14

KEY VERSE

Don't worry about anything.
No matter what happens,
tell God about everything.
Philippians 4:6a (NIRV)

LEADER TIPS

- This series steps into topical teaching with big questions about prayer, scripture and science, denominations, and more. Because it gets into some meaty subjects, please be sure to read this lesson plan in advance and be prepared. You may get questions you don't have answers for—that's okay! Be honest with the students and learn together.
- An additional resource for leaders is available for this week's Big Question. Please take some time to review it.

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (7 minutes)

Ask the students about their experiences with death and what people believe happens when someone dies. Introduce today's Big Question.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Challenge the group to solve some mysteries by asking a lot of questions!

God Story | Life Story

3 | WEEKLY VIDEO (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching.

My Story

4 | APPLICATION ACTIVITY (12 minutes*)

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 and discuss what Paul tells the church to do, then look at John 14:1 and chat about how the students could approach this topic with their friends.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Encourage the students to think about their own legacies and write mission statements for their lives.

Our Story

6 | DISMISSAL (2 minutes)

*Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



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My Story

1 | Conversation Starter

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

- Today's Big Question may be a difficult topic for some students. Facilitate discussions based on your relationships with them and the maturity of the group.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Welcome the students and gather them together.
- Check in quickly to see how their week is going.
- Ask:
 - Have you ever had a pet or someone close to you die?
 - What are some of the things that people believe happen after someone dies?
- Depending on the size of your group, invite the students to share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce this week's Big Question: **What happens when we die?**

2 | Intro Activity

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

- If anyone knows the answer right away, ask them to reveal it after other people have asked some questions.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Remind everyone that the Campfire series asks some tough questions about faith and life. One of the best ways to tackle these mysteries is by asking questions!
- Let the students know that you're going to start today off by solving some mysteries. They can only ask yes-no questions to figure out what happened.
- Tell the following riddle: Dustin and Kelsey are found dead in their apartment. They have no bruises or marks, and no one else has been near the scene. The only things nearby are broken glass, water, and an open window.
- Prompt the students to ask yes-no questions to help them find out what happened.
- Reveal that Dustin and Kelsey are goldfish whose bowl tipped over on a very windy day.
- Tell another riddle: Romeo and Juliet went to dinner and they both ordered iced tea. Romeo drank very fast and consumed five iced teas in the same time it took Juliet to finish just one. Every drink was poisoned; however, Romeo lived while Juliet died. How come?
- Encourage the students to ask yes-no questions to solve this mystery.
- Reveal that the poison was in the ice, which only had time to melt in Juliet's drink.
- Emphasize that asking questions is a good thing!



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God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (The Father's House, John 14:1–14)
 - Life Story (Kids sit around a campfire and chat about some big questions. This week's question is: **What happens when we die?**)
- Recap the video teaching. Discuss:
 - What's the Key Verse for the Campfire series? (Philippians 4:6a)
 - What stood out to you in today's Life Story? How about the God Story?

My Story

4 | Application Activity

SUPPLIES

- Bibles

INSTRUCTIONS

- Make sure everyone has access to a Bible.
- Guide the students to look up 1 Thessalonians 4:13–14. Take the time to help them navigate their Bibles as needed.
- Explain that plenty of people have asked today's Big Question: **What happens when we die?** A few years after Jesus' disciples asked him this question, people from one of the very first churches, in a city called Thessalonika, wondered the same thing. A pastor named Paul wrote them this letter to answer their questions.
- Read the passage aloud.
- Discuss:
 - When death happens in the church, what does Paul say we shouldn't do?
 - What does Paul say that we believe? What evidence does Paul give for this view?
 - What is still a mystery?
 - Does this change your perspective on death?
- Look up John 14:1.
- Read aloud the verse.
- Emphasize that we don't know exactly what happens when we die, but we can always trust Jesus!
- Discuss:
 - What would you say to a friend if they asked what you believe happens when someone dies?
 - Why might this be an important conversation?



My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- Mission Statement activity pages
- Markers
- Pens

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Give each person an activity page.
- b. Place the other supplies where everyone can share them.
- c. Point out that Jesus ends his conversation with his disciples in today's God Story by saying "Anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father" (John 14:12, NLT).
- d. Explain that having hope after death helps us focus on life here and now, rather than fearing what's ahead.
- e. Encourage the students to think about their legacy. What would they like to be remembered for?
- f. Direct them to write a mission statement for their lives that will help steer them on that path.
- g. Invite the students to share what they wrote if they feel comfortable doing so.
- h. Challenge everyone to consider what they could do to put their mission statements into action and begin shaping the legacy they want to leave.

Our Story

6 | Dismissal

SUPPLIES

- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- b. Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- c. Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.
- d. Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.