Starting point:
If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE you start this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on our Journey to Greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

OVERVIEW
• What is Paul saying to the Thessalonians in 1 Thess. 4:13?
• What did Pastor say was the difference in the grieving when a non-believer dies and when a believer dies?
• We can use the time of losing someone as a time to not only look back on the past but also to do what two other things?

He reminds them WHAT REALLY HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE
1 Thess. 4:13-14
• Paul describes three groups of people in these verses. Name the groups and differentiate between them.
• Why does Paul use the word “ASLEEP” as a metaphor for death?
• What do we learn from the following verses about what happens when we die?
  • 2 Cor. 5:8
  • Phil. 1:23
  • Luke 23:39-43
  • Matt 17:1-8
  • Rev 6:9-11
  • Luke 16:19-31
• What does Paul mean when he says, “Those who die without hope?”
• What about those who die who “belong to Jesus Christ?”
He reminds the WHERE WE WILL MEET THE LORD  1 Thess. 4:15-17

- Why did Paul have to address the issue he wrote about in verses 15-17?
- What did Paul say will happen to those of us who are still alive when the Rapture takes place?
- What do we learn from verses 16-17 about where Paul received what he wrote regarding the moment of the Resurrection and the Rapture of the Church?
- Why was this important?
- What do we learn from Eph. 2:1-2 about where we will all meet when Christ returns?
- Why is this important?
- What do we learn about Satan and his power in
  - 1 John 5:19
  - Matt 12:24
  - Matt 9:34
  - Matt 12:26
  - Rev 2:13?
- What is special for believers in Rev 11:15-19 regarding “the glorious family reunion?”

APPLICATION

- What has shaped your view of death and dying?
- What did you learn, that helps you, from Paul's writing about death and dying in 1 Thess. 4:13-18?
- How have you responded when you have lost a non-Christian loved one in death?
- What was the difference when losing a Christian loved one?
- Could Jesus return today? Why or Why not?
- How is this reality affecting your life today?