



**1 Thessalonians 4:13–18**

**Philippians 1:21**

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **Philippians 1:21**

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

He sat on the bed next to his mom. He knew she was dying of cancer. He was going overseas, not certain of whether or not he would ever see her again. He knew that he somehow needed to say goodbye. Instead, he said to his mother, “Mom, I’m not going to say ‘goodbye’ to you, but ‘hello.’ I know I may not see you again in this life, but I can imagine that you will arrive in heaven and it will seem as if no time has passed and we will be there with you.” He saw a light come on in her face as she felt the hope and assurance of being with the Lord. She knew she could go on and it would be okay.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18. Paul wanted Christians to know of the assurance they have—a future with Christ. He knew this life was not the end.

Teenagers live with so many doubts, fears, and worries. We don’t know everything they’re dealing with because they don’t always share everything. But we can be certain that most fear is rooted in the fear of death. This is where we, like Paul, can offer them hope and assurance—assurance that they will meet the Lord and the loved ones whom they now miss terribly. Always offer them the hope and consolation that Christ gives us eternity.

## FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

### Connect . . .

First, the family pulls out pictures of loved ones who have gone on to be with the Lord. Then, family members share memories of these loved ones and things they liked about them the most. Finally, a family member says: **We need to remember that these people who have left this earth are very much alive and are with the Lord. They will be there when we arrive in heaven.**

### Explore . . .

First, a family member asks: **What are your fears or doubts about death and dying?** Next, a family member reads 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18. Then, another family member asks: **Why do you think Paul wanted the readers of this letter to know this about Jesus’ coming and eternity? Do you believe it? If so, what sort of impact does this make on your life?**

### Transform . . .

First, the family reads the memory verse (Philippians 1:21) together. Then, the family goes back through the pictures of loved ones and calls their names aloud. Other family members respond by saying: **[Name of person] is alive and well with the Lord, and I will be, too.**

*Pray together that your family will always remember that they will one day be with Christ in eternity. Pray that fears will be calmed and that they will trust Jesus for the results.*