



### GLOSSARY

**ASK:** Ask a question that will help them to think about how this information makes a difference in the life.

**SHARE:** Talk about your own experience as a disciple of Jesus.

**EXPLAIN:** This is a piece of information that will help to explain the topic.

## What Happens When I Die

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die.'  
John 11:25 (CEV)

**NOTE FOR MENTOR:** Children's understanding of death develops in stages. Most children under the ages of 5 or 6 will have difficulty understanding the finality of death (often expecting deceased people to reappear). As they get older they will try to 'humanise' death more, to make it easier to understand (the deceased becomes a ghost or skeleton), until their understanding of death matures in their early teens.

When talking about this topic, in addition to their curiosity, some children may experience feelings of sadness, anger, frustration, confusion, loneliness and guilt, particularly if they have experienced the death of someone close to them recently. They may have some difficult questions - be open to these, even if you do not know the answers. A helpful response might be "I don't know the answer to that but we can try and find out together." Pray for guidance as you answer what you can truthfully, while reassuring them that Heaven is a wonderful place that Jesus has prepared for us.

Talking about memories is healthy and allowing children to do this will reinforce that it is okay for them to express their emotions and talk about how they are feeling.

## Chat

**EXPLAIN:** What happens after we die has been a big mystery, for as long as people have existed. No-one really knows exactly what happens after our body dies, but God has given us some clues in the Bible about our lives here on earth, and what happens after we die. Let's explore what the Bible does tell us?

Jesus tells us that "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die." (John 3:16 CEV)

**ASK:** What do you think Jesus meant when he used words like 'eternal life' or when he said that we will live, and never really die? Do you think it is possible for us to live, after we die?

**EXPLAIN:** God tells us in the Bible that our human bodies won't last forever and eventually will die. But when our body dies it will be changed a heavenly body that will last forever. (1 Cor 15:54 paraphrase).

**SHARE:** Share about a time when your body has been sick or has not worked as well as it should and how you felt about this. Did it stop you doing something you really wanted to do?

**ASK:** Do you think eternal bodies would be the same as our human bodies?

**EXPLAIN:** Our human bodies are designed not to live forever, and eventually they will stop working and die. This is the same for all living things like plants and animals. But Jesus promises that if we love him we will be with him forever. He tells us that he has prepared a special place for us to be together with him: "Don't be worried! Have faith in God and have faith in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house. I wouldn't tell you this, unless it was true. I am going there to prepare a place for each of you. After I have done this I will come back and take you with me. Then we will be together." (John 14:1-3 CEV).

**ASK:** If our body has died, how can Jesus take us to be with Him forever? Can you think of a name for the place Jesus takes us after we die?

**EXPLAIN:** Although our body will stop working and will die here on earth, our spirit inside us can live forever with Jesus in Heaven. The Bible doesn't tell us in detail what Heaven looks like, but it does tell us that there will be no evil, sickness or sadness and it is better than anything we could ever imagine: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Cor 2:9 NLT)

**ASK:** What do you think Heaven might be like? God tells us we can be sure that we have a place in Heaven. How can we be sure that we are going to heaven?

**EXPLAIN:** We learned earlier that Jesus said we should "not be worried" but should "have faith in God and have faith in Him." All we need to do to go to Heaven is to believe and love Jesus with all our hearts and trust him to help us live our lives the way he wants us to.

**SHARE:** What are some things you are looking forward to about Heaven?

## Activity

Draw a picture of what you think Heaven might be like.

## Application

When you love Jesus, you don't need to feel unsure or worried about what happens after you die. We don't know exactly what Heaven is like, but God tells us that it is better than anything we could ever imagine, and that he has prepared a special place there for us, to be with Him forever!

## Prayer

What would you like to talk to Jesus about?

What are you happy about?

Is there anything that is making you feel sad?

What can you thank Jesus for?

Is there anything that you are sorry about?

Is there something you would like Jesus to help you with?

What would you like to pray for?

## Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for always being with me as I live my life here on earth. Thank you that you love me enough to also prepare a special place for me to go and be with you forever after my body dies, and for offering this place to everyone who loves you. Please help me to continue to learn more about you from what you have written for us in the Bible. Amen

## Journal

What things would you love to do with your new, perfect, heavenly body? Draw a picture of yourself in Heaven with Jesus.

## Little Chats - What Happens When I Die?

### Journal

What things would you love to do with your new, perfect, heavenly body?  
Draw a picture of yourself in Heaven with Jesus.

## Prayer

**Draw some pictures or write words to answer these questions:**

What would you like to talk to Jesus about?

What are you happy about?

Is there anything that is making you feel sad?

What can you thank Jesus for?

Is there anything you are sorry about?

Is there something you would like Jesus to help you with?

Who would you like to pray for?

Dear God, Thank you for always being with me as I live my life here on earth. Thank you that you love me enough to also prepare a special place for me to go and be with you forever after my body dies, and for offering this place to everyone who loves you. Please help me to continue to learn more about you from what you have written for us in the Bible. Amen