



TLC Study Guide for October 13

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Our Christian Faith unites us TOGETHER in the HOPE we have in Christ, of the future glory that is to come, the heavenly reunion of the saints before God's throne, and the new heavens and new earth. This is the message of hope that we get to share and pass on to the next generation as we pray TOGETHER, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Getting Started:

1. What was something from Pastor Khumalo's sermon that really struck you?
2. There are so many things we are looking forward to about heaven. What are some of the things you are looking forward to the most?

In the Word: Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

3. Paul starts by saying, "We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers." There are many "uninformed" ideas about the afterlife, and what people believe happens after we die. Unless it comes from God's Word ("according to the Lord's word"), it is a fabrication of our own making. What are some of the manmade ideas of 'heaven' or the 'afterlife' that are out there today, but don't really jive with what God says in Holy Scripture?
4. Paul says that we do not grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. Notice that Paul doesn't say 'Christians don't grieve.' Why is it still appropriate for Christians to grieve the loss of a loved one, even though we have such a certain hope in Christ?
5. In verse 14, there are two statements of faith, two things that "we believe" – what are they, and how are the two related?
6. Why do you think Paul uses the euphemism "fallen asleep" to describe those fellow believers who had physically died?

7. Verse 15 says that when Jesus returns, there will be two groups – those who are “still alive” and those who have “fallen asleep.” Neither group will be left behind or precede the other! Instead, what will happen to these two groups, according to verse 16 and 17?

8. After such a powerful teaching, Paul tells the Thessalonians to “encourage one another with these words.” How do we encourage each other in the message of hope today, as individuals, and as a church family?

In the Word: Read Luke 18:9-14

9. When Jesus comes again, at the resurrection of the dead on the Last Day, we will have to stand before the judgement seat of God (cf. Matthew 25). There, it will be determined if our sins have been “justified” or made right, and if we can be declared “righteous” and enter the glory of God. How does this parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector show us the right and wrong way to be “justified” before God?

10. What did the Pharisee boast about before God (and those listening) and why was it such a sham?

11. What was the prayer of the Tax Collector, and why was that man justified before God rather than the other? (read Galatians 2:15-16)

Prayer: Thank God for the promise of heaven and eternal life for all who put their hope in Jesus Christ. Ask for the Holy Spirit to help us share the Message of Hope with others, so that they can be TOGETHER with us before the Lord, justified through faith in Christ and not condemned by our sins. Pray for comfort for those families and individuals who ‘grieve with hope.’

Next Week: We continue our TOGETHER preaching series with the third part of our Campaign title – “TOGETHER: for the Next Generation.” God is building up at Our Savior Lutheran Church a people who are passionate about discipleship and raising up the next generation of Jesus followers. Our TOGETHER Campaign is looking ahead to a vibrant and solid ministry that helps kids and families to Learn, Live and Share Christ!

Ministry Forum – If you did not make the ministry forums on Thursday or Sunday, your last chance is Monday evening (Oct 14) at 7 p.m. Come and hear the exciting and compelling vision for our ministry!