



Lies About God

“God Has Made Death a Natural Part of Life”

Prayer

Introductory Activity

Focus: This lie about God is an interesting one. A person can understand why someone might want to believe it. If death is a natural part of life, then we should embrace it rather than run from it. However, this contradicts the human experience. The vast majority of people want to live and will go to every length and expense to eke out a few more moments here on this earth. In *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith*, the character named Yoda said, “Death is a natural part of life. Rejoice for those around you who transform into the Force. Mourn them do not. Miss them do not.” In other words, “Get over it!” This lie is a coping mechanism for death. As always, we will see that the Bible has a far better answer for death!

Activity:

May I Read You a Story? *The Fall of Freddie the Leaf* is a children’s book that you can get from the library or listen to on the internet. As you read/listen to the story, jot down the answer to this question: What are the messages this book wants to teach about death?

Death Is Natural?

1. Death is separation. What kind of death (separation) does each verse describe?

Physical—“The dust [the body] returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit [soul] returns to God who gave it” (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

Spiritual—“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins” (Ephesians 2:1).

Eternal—“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels’” (Matthew 25:41).

- Evaluate the statement: “This life is hell!”

2. Why death?

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people. . .” (Romans 5:12).

“The LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever”” (Genesis 3:22).

- For what reasons is the lie “God has made death a natural part of life” so dangerous?
- What is God’s plan for death?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-22,55-58. Respond to someone who says, “You don’t need to believe in the physical resurrection of Jesus.” (*Be sure to explain the comfort you have because Jesus is risen indeed!*)

3. What happens when I die?

“The dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it” (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

“Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment . . .”(Hebrews 9:27).

“Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise””(Luke 23:43).

Look up John 5:24-29.*(Note the believer’s two resurrections.)*

4. Think of at least two belief systems regarding death that stem from this lie.
5. How would belief in this lie affect a person’s outlook on life?
6. What will eternal life be like?

“Who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body” (Philippians 3:21).

Read Revelation 21:3,4. Agree/Disagree: The Christian doesn’t fear death.

Group Discussion

- Below are common questions about heaven. Discuss what we know and what we do not know.

Will we recognize people we knew on earth?

What will our relationship with our loved ones be like?

Will we be sad if a loved one is not there?

Are there degrees of glory?

Will we know what is happening on earth?

- Agree/Disagree: God's promise of sending Jesus was his plan B because of sin.
- A pastor once told about a hospital visit to a member of the congregation who had delivered a stillborn baby. The hospital chaplain called him over to give him advice on what to say. He advised, "Simply explain to the mother that this is the natural course of things in nature. You see it with cows and pigs all the time. It's simply part of the cycle of life." If the pastor had followed that advice, how might the mother have reacted? Think of at least two possibilities.
- Why did the chaplain feel this was the best advice to give?
- Think back to Freddie the Leaf from the opening activity. How would you answer someone who states, "God has made death a natural part of life"?

Closing Activity

Jerusalem the Golden. We end today with the singing of "Jerusalem the Golden." Imagine: here we are, standing with John on the portal of heaven looking at what awaits. As we sing, let's thank God for his coming blessing.