

SESSION EIGHT

Death Has Been Defeated

KEY STORY:

Jesus is raised from the dead

(MATTHEW 28:2-7)

GOD'S PROMISE:

Death has been swallowed up in victory.

(1 CORINTHIANS 15:54)

MY PROMISE:

I will entrust my death to the Lord of life.

GROUP STUDY

GETTING STARTED

Welcome to session eight of *Unshakable Hope*. Open the session with prayer, and then ask one person to share a brief three-minute version of his or her spiritual journey. Following this, read this session's God's Promise and My Promise aloud as a group (see page 103), and then answer one or more of the following questions:

- Why is the topic of death so difficult for people to discuss?
- What verse from this session especially comforted you?
- How can you look at death through the lens of victory and hope?

DEATH HAS BEEN DEFEATED

VIDEO TEACHING

As you watch the video for session eight, use the following outline to record any additional takeaways from the teaching.

Death is a very real part of life

Our hope depends entirely on the physical death *and* physical resurrection of Jesus

Jesus' followers believe his resurrection is a preview and promise of their own

Paradise is the first stage of heaven, but not the final version for believers in Christ

Our Lord is a God of renewal, redemption, regeneration, and resurrection

=====**GROUP DISCUSSION**=====

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.

1. What statement in the video teaching affected you the most? Why?

2. What are some ways that people you know have described what happens after death?

3. What reassurances does the Bible offer about what happens to followers of Jesus when they die? What hope does this provide to you right now?

4. What are some ways to view death and loss through the lens of Christ's resurrection?

5. What is your specific action step to live out this promise of God this week?

=====**PRAY**=====

Close your time together with prayer. Remember to share prayer requests and review how God has answered past prayers and fulfilled his promises. Use the questions below to shape and grow your group's experience during this time.

- God has won the victory over death. Where else have you seen God's victory in your life this week?
- In what areas do you need to ask God to reveal the victory?
- How can you pray for someone in your life who is struggling right now and could use a reminder of this unshakable promise from God?

UNSHAKABLE HOPE STUDY GUIDE

NAME	REQUESTS AND PRAISES

===== NEXT WEEK =====

Next week, you and your group will look at God's promise that joy will be coming soon. Be sure to complete the personal study before you attend the group meeting.