

What will life after death be like?

discussion guide

based on **1 Cor 15.35-57** (Linked to sermon from 16/4/18)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series

This was part of our series on Easter people from 1 Corinthians 15, although this is the only sermon discussion outline linked to this series.

Intro: what's your favourite season of the year?

1 Corinthians 15 is the great chapter unpacking the implications of Jesus' resurrection.

v1-11 Was Jesus really raised from the dead?

v12-34 How can we be sure of life after death?

v35-58 What will life after death be like?

Read 1 Corinthians 15.35-44

v36-38 How do we see this at work in springtime?

v38-41 God gives each created entity its own nature (flesh / body). Why is this relevant to the discussion about what our resurrected bodies will be like?

v42-44 Transformation will take place. Which of these contrasts (perishable-imperishable; dishonour-glory; weakness-power; natural-spiritual) is most significant for you? Why?

Read 1 Corinthians 15.45-57

v45-49 In what ways are we similar to the 'first man' (Adam)? In what ways will be similar to the 'second man' (Jesus)?

Paul's theme throughout this section is that we don't know exactly what we will be like – it's a foolish question (v35-36). But just as God turns a seed into something far more glorious, so will we be transformed. Our bodies won't be exactly like they are now ('natural bodies') because 'flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God' (v50). Jesus' resurrection body becomes something of a prototype for us – physical enough to eat and drink and be touched; but not so physical that we're constrained by walls and doors!

v50-57 what's the focus of Paul's conclusion?

How can we let this passage shape our thinking about our own death and resurrection?

Up (love God) – Celebrate the victory over death that Jesus has won for us.

In (love each other) – Talk about dying and life after death are very sensitive subjects for many people. Spend time thinking about who to support those who are grieving (prayerfully, practically and spiritually).

Out (reach the world) – A friend (not a Christian) says something like "When we die, that's it. The end" or "When we die, we become one more star in the sky" or "When we die, we join the great spirit in the sky". How could you respond?