



A Historic Opportunity

Text: Luke 10:1-24

Sermon Summary:

This Spring, Hill Country Bible Church will be working together with churches all across Austin to engage our friends, relatives, neighbors, coworkers in spiritual conversations. Those of us who follow Jesus can consider ourselves SENT by Him to have those conversations, but we may have wondered where to start. Thankfully, we have a unique opportunity in the form of a burgeoning interest in the phenomenon of Near-Death Experiences (NDEs) and a book written by John Burke of Gateway Church here in Austin. What's After Life is a brief look at NDEs and what they may tell us about life after death as well as how those experiences correspond to what the Bible has to say on the subject. We are excited to see what the Holy Spirit will do to bring people to faith as a result of our faithfulness to simply start a conversation by giving them a copy of the book and asking them to share their thoughts with us.

Leaders, remember to review the "What's After ATX" Small Group Leader training material you received last week as you prepare to lead your group this week.

Discussion Questions:

The following are based on the "My Application" Questions found in the bulletin this week. Urge your group members watch the sermon online if they were unable to attend worship, and to spend time considering and answering those questions before coming to the group. This will produce a richer discussion time.

1. What are some of the characteristics of a follower—of anyone?
2. Do you consider yourself a follower of Jesus? Why or why not?
3. Read Luke 9:1-6; 57-62; Luke 10:1-16. (Or, ask 3-4 group members to read them to the group.) How do these passages support the idea that to follow Jesus means to go on mission with Him?

4. View some of the videos at www.whatsafteratx.org with your group. What stood out to you from these videos and from what you read in the booklet, "What's After Life?"
5. What have you learned from the Bible that is highlighted in these near-death experiences (NDEs)?
6. What are you doing to advance the citywide discussion about life after death within your circle of relationships? Share your stories. What are you planning to do next?

Prayer:

- Tell the group who God is urging you to share What's After Life with.
- Pray for these people. Mention them by name and ask God to make them open to having a spiritual conversation.
- Pray for each other. Ask that God will make you bold and brave as you follow Jesus in this way.
- Thank Him for including you in a powerful, joyful, and historic endeavor!

Application:

- Be sure your group knows what they are being asked to do and what the timeline looks like. (refer to your training materials)
- Review together where to find the videos and how to order books online.
- Plan to check-in every time you meet to share stories about how it's going sharing books and starting conversations.

Scripture Memory:

*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you."
John 20:21*