**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. February 26, 2017**

**Be Encouraged Until We Meet Again**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**Key truth:** As disciples, what we know about Jesus Christ’s past and future should shape how we live in the present.

1. The results of an informed faith are peace and hope.

1 Corinthians 15

2. The results of an uninformed faith are hopelessness and

 despair.

3. Discipleship teaches us how to react and respond to

 the death of believers.

 A. Grief is a common human experience that should not

 be ridiculed.

 1) Grief has no timetable but there is an expiration

 date.

 2) You will never experience the purpose, the person

 nor the victory God has for you if you remain in a

 state of grief.

 B. There should be a distinct difference in how believers

 grieve the death of a believer.

4. Faith’s Response to Death

 A. Let your faith drive your emotions.

 B. Let your faith inform your doubts.

 C. Let your faith comfort not criticize one another during

 times of grief.

**Taking it beyond the walls:** Encourage, pray, and support those going through grief.

**Connection Group Study Questions**

**Quick Review:** Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

**Getting to know you**: Death is a common human experience that brings grief and many emotions. How have dealt with the death of a loved one? How did your faith play a part in dealing with grief?

Have you had the opportunity to comfort someone after the death of a loved one? Was it difficult to come up with the right words to say? Why or why not?

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:12-19: Why is the resurrection the foundation of the Christian Faith? What affect does the resurrection have on our view of death?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:13, Philippians 1:21-23: What did Paul believe happened to Christians when they die? Is there such a thing as soul sleep?

Read: Philippians 2:27: Grief of a friend or family member’s death is normal. How can grief of despair be seen as a denial of hope itself?

Pastor Felton stated, “Grief has no timetable but there is an expiration date.” Why is it important not to remain in a state of grief? How can that have negative consequences on our spiritual growth?

Read: Luke 16:19-31: Based on this passage are those who die without trusting Christ conscience of that reality? What should be our response to those who don’t know Christ?