## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ESVUK

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

## **God's blueprint for authentic life** Hope in grief 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Introduction

1. Those who sleep are safe with Jesus v14

2. Those who are 'awake' must wait for Jesus v15

- 3. Those who trust will triumph with Jesus v16–17
  - a) those who have died already v16
  - b) those who are still alive v17

Conclusion

## Questions for discussion and reflection:

- How would you answer a person who asks the question, 'what happens when we die?'
- How has what Paul has taught encouraged you?

Next week: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Light in darkness, William Taylor