

To Live and Die for the Lord

If we live, we live to honor the Lord. If we die, we die to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Christ died and came back to life. He did this to become the Lord of both the dead and the living.

—Romans 14:8-9 NIV

Consider reading
Romans 14:7-9

Kathy Johnson, Minnesota

- **How does it feel when someone you love dies?**

Susan was so sad when her mother died. At the funeral service, the pastor made her feel better. He said people who believe in Jesus go to heaven when they die. The pastor said Susan's mother believed Jesus had died and rose in order to save her. Susan knew this meant her mother was in heaven with Jesus. This helped Susan feel less sad.

- **Have you ever been to a funeral service?**
- **If you have been to a funeral service, what happened while you were there?**
- **Where was the service and who was it for?**
- **Did the person who died believe in Jesus?**
- **Does knowing the person who died believed in Jesus help you feel better?**
- **Do you believe in Jesus?**
- **Will you live in heaven some day?**
- **What do you hope heaven will be like?**

Susan and her mother believed in Jesus. (**Reread the Bible passage.**) Susan also knew she needed to live her life now for the Lord because she belonged to him. Susan found ways she could honor the Lord by serving others. She began to knit prayer shawls and baby blankets for people in need. Susan also helped serve meals to hungry people at a downtown church. Lastly, she sent cards to those she knew who were sick. On the cards she always included a Bible verse about Jesus.

- **Do you know anyone who is sick and may need a card or prayers?**
- **Do you have a food pantry or a place that serves food to those in need near your home? If so, have you ever given food to the pantry or helped serve?**
- **What are some other ways you can serve and honor the Lord?**

Susan knew her mom was in heaven, but she was still sad because she missed talking to her on the phone. Susan found ways to remember her mom in a happy way. She made a photo album of fun pictures of her mom and wrote down many stories about her mom that made her smile. Later, Susan was able to help some of her friends when they were sad about someone dying. She showed God's love to others by teaching them how to keep happy memories. Susan was glad she was blessed with this gift to help others.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross to save us from our sins. We are thankful we belong to you, whether we live or die. Turn our sadness at death into joy, and give us the chance to share your love with others. Show us ways to serve you. In your name we pray. Amen.