

# Grave Considerations

**The topic** Making our lives count

**The object** Some kind of grave marker. Check the yellow pages (you'll be more likely to find listings under *memorials* than *tombstones*). Find a business that displays grave markers or memorial markers, and arrange to borrow one—or make a simple wooden or clay marker (or get a handyman from the Sunday school class of retirees

to make one). If you're making your own, enscribe on it one of the epitaphs on this page.

FYI, you can find *lots* more epitaphs in places like these:

- *Epitaphs*, Nigel Rees (Carroll & Graf, 1994)
- *The Sunny Side of Genealogy*, compiled by Fonda D. Baselt
- On the Web at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

**The lesson** With the grave marker center stage, read some of the gag epitaphs. Then for the segue: sooner or later, remind your students, all of you will die (unless you're a pretribulationist, in

which case some will *not* die, but be "raptured" instead). And when you do, **someone will probably put a concrete marker over your grave for a plaque on your mausoleum crypt, or the urn of ashes on the mantle).**

So what kind of epitaph might someone write on your gravestone or plaque—one simple phrase—that sums up all your years? HAD A VERY COOL CAR . . . LOOKED AWESOME IN A BATHING SUIT . . . MADE A TON OF MONEY . . . YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT HE COULD DO ON A SKATEBOARD. Or THIS LIFE TOUCHED MANY FOR GOOD . . . SHE BROUGHT JOY TO ALL SHE MET . . . HE NEVER WAS RICH, BUT HE HAD A FAMILY THAT LOVED HIM, FRIENDS THAT RESPECTED HIM, AND THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE . . . WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

**The Word** Matthew 16:26; 1 John 2:15-17

## Discussion starters

1. What makes a life to have been worthwhile when it's over?
2. What does it mean to "not love the world or anything in the world"?
3. What did Jesus mean about a person who "forfeits his soul"?

## Life changers

1. An old hymn goes like this: "Only one life, 'twil soon be passed / Only what's done for Christ will last." What did you do last week that will actually last?
2. Write a phrase you'd like people to read—one that would sum up your life at the end of it.



PEGLEG PETE, THE RIVER PIRATE, WALKED THE PLANK AND SANK.

B. ARNOLD COLD IS MY BED, BUT OH, I LOVE IT, FOR COLDER ARE MY FRIENDS ABOVE IT.

REST IN PEACE MOONSHINE LENNY SEEMS HE TOOK ONE DRINK TOO MANY.

BOBBY LEE SAID HIS CAR WOULDN'T SKID THIS TOMBSTONE SHOWS THAT IT COULD AND DID.

A NEAR-SIGHTED MINER IN SHAFT 39 LIT HIS CIGAR AND BLEW UP THE MINE.

FLORA FINCH SWEEPED AWAY BY APRIL SHOWERS, HERE SHE LIES BENEATH THE FLOWERS.

IT WAS BECAUSE OF A COUGH THAT THEY CARRIED HIM OFF IT WAS A COFFIN THEY CARRIED HIM OFF IN.