



The **PRINCIPLES** of **FIRST MENTION**

The Beginning of Death **Robert Morris**

Focus The Law of First Mention is the first time a word is mentioned in the Bible, and that word must be congruent with all of Scripture. When we understand its original meaning, it helps us study the Bible. The first time “death” is mentioned in the Bible is in Genesis. Unbelief is the original cause of death, but Jesus overcame death through His life and resurrection.

Fun What is one thing on your bucket list?

Review Key Scriptures: Genesis 2:16–17; John 11:25

1. What is the cause of death?

The original cause of death was not sin; it was unbelief. Your beliefs determine your behavior. We must decide every day that we are going to believe what God says and not what Satan says. Our heavenly Father sees everything that is coming in our lives, and He wants us to learn to hear and believe His voice by faith. Unbelief brings death.

2. What is the consequence of death?

The eternal consequence of sin and death is the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve chose to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil instead of choosing to live by listening to and obeying God.

3. What is the cure for death?

Death is part of life now, but Jesus died for us, and He rose again. Unbelief is the cause of death, and belief is the cure that saves us from the second death, which is eternal separation from God. The first resurrection is when you give

your life to Christ. When you die to self and accept Christ, you never have to fear death.

Group Dynamics Idea Get to know the gifts and talents of those in your group.

Consider having each member share their interests and skills and find ways they can use them in the group. This will help your group members develop their gifts and talents.

Discuss

1. How do you think children learn best? Is it by experience or belief?
2. What do you think was the first cause of doubt for Adam and Eve?
3. Why is unbelief the cause of death?
4. Is there an area in your life where you feel you've allowed doubt or unbelief to creep in? Share if you're comfortable, and we can pray over those areas today.
5. Read Revelation 20:6. What is the second death, and how do you overcome it?
6. Have you made a decision to follow Jesus Christ?
7. Holy Spirit, what are You saying to us through this lesson?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Unbelief is the cause of death.
- Belief in Jesus is the cause of life.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we believe in Your Son, Jesus Christ. We believe that through His death and resurrection, death has been destroyed. Help us hear Your voice more each day and help us to always believe. Thank You that we never have to fear death because Jesus is the resurrection and the life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip It's good to ask for help. Be sure that you don't lead alone. Find a mentor or reach out to your section leader, and share your concerns, prayer needs, and successes. Let this leader give you feedback on what you are doing well and the areas in which you can grow.