

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of August 25-31, 2024

“THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Where is one of the most beautiful places you have ever been? Why did you consider it beautiful?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Revelations 21:1-8.

1. Do you ever wonder how much the new earth will be like this earth? What do you think? What might be the same? What will be different? What do you think we will look like in heaven and what will we be doing in heaven?
2. Discuss the implications of the phrase, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man” (Revelations 21:3).
3. What promises do you see in Revelations 21:3-8? (Hint: Look for the word “will.”) How do you think these promises would have affected the original readers of this book? How would these promises help them to deal with loss or pain in this world?
4. How do these verses affect your own heart? Do they bring hope, fear, joy, or uncertainty? And how does this encourage you to persevere in your present suffering? What is one grief or pain you carry that you are especially looking forward to having "wiped away"?
5. Can we be sure that we will go to heaven?
6. What are some things that in heaven will be too late to do? How are you sharing your faith? How are you living your faith? Are you living with a sense of urgency about others coming to know Jesus?

7. Share some of your personal highlights from this sermon series. How has it affected you, your convictions and your walk?

NEXT STEPS

No one goes to heaven by accident. Heaven is God's prepared place for prepared people.

- I will not live with an “earthbound” perspective of life.
- I will be more intentional in living for Jesus and walk in light of eternity.
- I will seek to know Christ more.
- I will seek opportunities to share Jesus to others.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a life that lives for Christ, that lives in view of eternity and not of this world.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

August 26	Hebrews 1:8-12
August 27	Ephesians 1:1-10
August 28	Hebrews 13:12-19
August 29	Acts 20:17-31
August 30	Isaiah 65:17-25
August 31	Psalms 22:1-21
September 1	Acts 16:1-10