

Share Highs and Lows for your week...

(Each person shares or passes)

READ a Bible verse or story

¹Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (Rev. 21:1-4)

TALK about the Bible reading(s)...

- What do you think Heaven is like?
- How would you compare Heaven to our lives here on Earth?

Growing in faith and understanding...

❖ Read Isaiah 65:17-18a aloud:

¹⁷ “See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, ...” (NIV)

- What do you think the former things that will not be remembered could be?
- How would the new Heavens and the new earth be like with these “former things” no more?

❖ Now Read Revelation 21:1-3 aloud:

¹Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. (NIV)

- How does this reading found in Revelation challenge your thinking about Heaven? Or does it delight you and how?

❖ Read the rest of Isaiah 65:17-25 aloud...

¹⁷ “Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth, and no one will even think about the old ones anymore. ¹⁸ Be glad; rejoice forever in my creation! And look! I will create Jerusalem as a place of happiness. Her people will be a source of joy. ¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem and delight in my people. And the sound of weeping and crying will be heard in it no more. ²⁰ “No longer will babies die when only a few days old. No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life. No longer will people be considered old at one hundred! Only the cursed will die that young! ²¹ In those days people will live in the houses they build and eat the fruit of their own vineyards. ²² Unlike the past, invaders will not take their houses and confiscate their vineyards. For my people will live as long as trees, and my chosen ones will have time to enjoy their hard-won gains. ²³ They will not work in vain, and their children will not be doomed to misfortune. For they are people blessed by the LORD, and their children, too, will be blessed. ²⁴ I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers! ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. But the snakes will eat dust. In those days no one will be hurt or destroyed on my holy mountain. I, the LORD, have spoken!” (NLT)

- According to this passage what kind of place will the New Earth be? How is this important to you? Why?

❖ Read Roman 1:20 aloud...

²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So, they have no excuse for not knowing God. (NLT)

- According to this scripture how is God revealed to us?
- How has God revealed himself to you recently?

Recap final discussion about this session...

- ❖ How has this session challenged or deepened your understanding of Heaven?

Prayer Lift up in prayer the challenges that folks shared during the recap, struggles shared during the Hi and Low section and for continued revelation for each person during this week's home study!

Individual Home Study these passages are for your continued reflection until the next session. Use a journal to keep your answers to the passage prompts.

Colossians 3:1-3 (NLT)

¹Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ²Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

- If you chose to live your life setting your sights on the realities of Heaven as found in scripture, how might it affect how you live your life?

Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

¹³No, dear brothers, and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

- What happened in the past that is stopping you from focusing on the heavenly eternal prize promised by God through Jesus Christ? How would your life change?

Additional scriptures to read should time permit:

Colossians 3:1-2 – What is God revealing to you as you focus on a vision of Heaven?

Psalms 27:4 – What is your sense of what it will be like to visit with God face to face?

Revelation 21:2-3 – Reflect on what living on a New Earth that is also Heaven would be like.

Share / Read / Talk / Grow / Check-In / Pray / Study



HEAVEN

Week One Study Guide

Series Inspired by Writings From:

“Heaven” by Randy Alcorn

“Surprised by Hope” by N.T. Wright

“Preparing for Heaven” by Gary Black Jr.

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ And He said to him, “*What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?*” ²⁷ And he answered, “you shall love the lord your god with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:25-27)

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LUTHERAN church

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