

SESSION 10 FAMILY GUIDE

IS HEAVEN REAL?

The Bible tells us what is true about eternal life. Our life on this earth is a vapor. (See Jas. 4:14.) While this may sound dismal, for the believer, it is a glorious truth. Not only is heaven real, but it is the place where God most fully reveals His glory. We were made to be with God, and heaven is the place where that truth will become a reality for everyone who trusts in Jesus for salvation. Heaven will be the most beautiful, glorious, all-satisfying place that we have ever known or will know. When we die, anyone who is in Christ will immediately be reunited with Him in heaven. One day, God will create a new heaven and earth where He will dwell with us forever.

Key Verse: *Philippians 3:20-21*

Key Passages: *John 6:38-42;*

2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Revelation 21:9-27

STUDY

Is Heaven an actual place?

- In these verses, Jesus not only testifies that heaven is an actual place, but He also tells us that God desires we live there with Him. God promises that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection would secure eternal life for all who believe in Him. Heaven is a place where followers of Jesus will live. For those who place their faith in Christ, heaven will be the home they have always longed for because being with God is our heart's greatest longing.

What happens when we die?

- God does not leave followers of Jesus to wonder what will happen to us after we die. He promises us an eternal dwelling place immediately after death. To be here on earth is to be away from God, but when we depart this earth we instantly go to heaven. Sadly, not everyone will go to heaven. While God desires that all repent and trust in Jesus for salvation (1 Tim. 2:4), there are many people who will reject Jesus. We can be a part of God's mission by telling other people about Jesus.

What is eternity like?

- One day, God will create the new heavens and the new earth. As such, God's space (heaven) will be joined to our space (earth) to build an everlasting home. We see in these verses that the new heaven and earth will be a city. It is a very physical space where God will dwell with His people forever. In this city will be people from every nation, tribe, and tongue—all worshiping God and enjoying Him forever. Our hearts will eternally be satisfied by Jesus and we will experience His goodness forever.

DISCUSS

- What is true about heaven that you didn't know or had misconceptions about?
- How does how you live now affect your eternity?
- Why will Jesus' presence make heaven better than anything else?

PRAY

Discuss any questions your preteen may have about heaven or eternity. Pray that God's Word may bring peace and hope, knowing that those who believe in Jesus have a home awaiting them. Ask God to help keep your minds fixed on heavenly things, that you might live for God's kingdom, knowing what is here is perishable. Thank God for the hope we have in Jesus and that because of Him we will one day live with God.

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 describes the second coming of Christ. At the end of the passage, Paul gives the exhortation to encourage one another with these words. As a family, read these verses together and think about how they are encouraging. Discuss ways as a family you can encourage each other through scripture to look forward to heaven and Christ's return.