

# **Life Group Study based on Message for April 13<sup>th</sup>**

## **What Happens When You Die?**

HEAVEN YES!

### **WELCOME /PRAYER**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

This Sunday's worship will be one that you don't want to miss. A new and exciting information about our church will be shared in a very exciting vision message.

### **ICE BREAKER QUESTION**

**ASK:** What was your favorite vacation and how long did you stay?

What is the favorite part of a vacation...preparation/anticipation, the actual days there, or the memories?

### **OPENING THOUGHTS AND ILLUSTRATIONS:**

A new study from the Barna Research Group (Christian based Group of Ventura, California) shows that most Americans (76%) believe that Heaven exists.

And yet only 1/2 of 1% (.05) expect to go to Hell upon their death. Nearly two-thirds of Americans (64%) believe they will go to Heaven.

**THEN READ...**Matthew 7:13-14 where Jesus said, "*You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell<sup>1</sup> is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. <sup>14</sup>But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.*"

**ASK:** According to this verse there will be a lot less people in heaven than there will be in hell. According to what Jesus says, what do these statistics suggest? (Could it be lots of people are mistaken about their destination?)

### **DEEPER STUDY**

#### **HEAVEN IS A REAL PLACE!**

*In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:2*

*The same one who came down is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that his rule might fill the entire universe. Eph 4:10*

#### **A GLIMPSE OF WHAT HEAVEN WILL LOOK LIKE? We Can only imagine!**

**ASK:** What do you imagine heaven will look like? Why?

*However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" 1 Corinthians 2:9*

<sup>2</sup>*And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. <sup>3</sup>And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. <sup>4</sup>And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. <sup>5</sup>And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. <sup>6</sup>And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal:*

*and in the midst of the throne...* Revelation 4:2-6a (Also, Revelation 15:2, Ezekiel 1:22 – 28, 10:1, Exodus 24:10)

**A New Heaven and a New Earth: Describe your view of a New Heaven and a New Earth**

*Then 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. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 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."*

Revelation 21:1-4

See also: Isaiah 65:17, Psalms 102:25-26, 2 Peter 3:5-12

**Heavenly Bodies:** The believers who die and await the resurrection will have a body in heaven. However, our mortal bodies remain in the grave until our resurrected bodies are ours after the rapture.

**ASK: Anyone care to share their vision of what they want their resurrected bodies to look like?**

See 1 Corinthians 15:12-22, Revelation 6:9-11

**Earthly Friends and Relatives:**

**ASK: What friends and relatives are you looking forward to seeing again in heaven?**

*For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:12*

**WHAT WILL NOT BE FOUND IN HEAVEN**

No more death. (Revelation 21:4b)

No more sorrow. (Revelation 21:4b)

No more crying. (Revelation 21:4a)

No more pain. (Revelation 21:4b)

No more sin. (Revelation 21:27)

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN HEAVEN?**

*...you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalm 16:11*

1. **YOU WILL BE UNITED WITH CHRIST.** 2 Corinthians 11:2...*For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Revelation 19:7*
2. **YOU WILL GET TO SERVE GOD.** *The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Revelation 22:3-5*
3. **YOU WILL GET TO WORSHIP GOD.** *Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!" Revelation 19:5*
4. **YOU WILL BE REWARDED....** *Son of Man...will reward each person according to what he has done. Matthew 16:27*
5. **YOU WILL KNOW AND BE KNOWN.** *Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:12*

**ENCOURAGE**

Have everyone develop a list of 5 lost people that they will share the message of Jesus and Heaven with and invite them to church.

**PRAYER**

God, I commit these people to you. Would you draw them by your spirit to know you personally through your son Jesus Christ? In His name I pray. Amen.