

# 2022 Community Groups

## WEEKLY GUIDE

### March 6 - Community Guide

As we near the end of our Revelation sermon series, Beginning and End, Pastor Aaron helps us focus on what the bible has to say about Heaven. There are a lot of opinions floating around about what Heaven will be like, but through this study, we are being encouraged to use our God-given, scripture revealing, Jesus-centering, Spirit-saturating, prayerfully guided, and community-affirmed imagination. This is not make-believe or make it up as you go! Heaven is Real!

#### Community Prayer:

Lord, we invite you to guide our time together as we dig into your word and share with each other. More than anything, we ask that you would be with us and would help us to see you more clearly through this time of study. All these things we ask In Jesus' name, Amen

#### Opening Questions:

1. What are some of the funniest or strangest theories you have heard about Heaven?
2. Have you ever heard the saying, "Those people are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good." If so, what do you think it means? Have you ever known anyone who fits that description?

#### Exploration:

- What is Heaven like?
- Who will be in Heaven?
- What will we do in Heaven?
- How do we live our lives right now?

#### Revelation 21:9-11

##### What is Heaven like?

We see a description here of the glory of God being revealed. John describes it by comparing what he is seeing with the most amazing, jaw-dropping splendor imaginable and it still does not fully convey the awesome display of God's glory. This glory that is being described is beyond comprehension. It is something everyone whose name is written in the Book of Life will experience.



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The Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 8:18 that our present sufferings do not compare to the glory that will be revealed to us in heaven. This truth can be a source of comfort for those who are experiencing difficult things here and now. Heaven awaits all who believe in Jesus.

### **Revelation 21:12-14**

We see a detailed description of high walls and gates with specific names written on them.

- Gates represent security - in Heaven, there will never be anything to fear and we won't need security
- Gates represent access - in Heaven the gates are always open and become a great equalizer, no one is denied entry. There will be freedom to roam, explore and experience all the wonders God provides.

In John 10:9 Jesus says, "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture."

3. Have you ever been denied access to somewhere you really wanted to explore? If so, how did that make you feel?
4. Take a moment to imagine Jesus giving you access to every good thing God has prepared for you. What do you imagine that would include?

### **Revelation 21:22-27**

#### **Who will be in heaven?**

First and foremost - God, The Lord God Almighty will be there. This is the most amazing, most radical, most mind-blowing truth, that we will be face-to-face with GOD!

Second - You, and all those whose names have been written in the Book of Life.

You may wonder...

- Will my friends and family be there?
- Will I recognize them?

If your friends and family members have put their faith in Jesus, then you can be assured that they will be there. But there is still a lot that we don't know about our interactions with people we know here on earth when



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we are in heaven. What we do know is that we will not lack any good thing when we are in the presence of God.

Another thing we know about heaven is that there will be people from every tribe, tongue and nation throughout the history of the world. All the best of culture, history, art, music and languages of earth will be redeemed, purified and carried over to the New Earth. The differences that sometimes divide us now will be restored and celebrated in Heaven.

5. What is something that you have learned from a person of a different culture than you that has positively impacted your life?

### **Revelation 22:1-2**

Heaven and Earth will have reunited, God will have come to be with His people, fully present and fully available. Here God satisfies every longing and desire. Think back to the Garden of Eden where God walked and talked with Adam and Eve, this is the kind of access we will have to God.

Jesus says in John 14:23, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them and we will come to them and make our home with them."

6. If you could take a walk with Jesus and talk to him face-to-face about anything, what would you want to talk about?

### **Revelation 22:3-5**

#### **What will we do in heaven?**

The curse referred to in verse 3 takes us back to the Garden of Eden. When Adam and Eve sinned, God cursed the ground so that work would be a burden.

**Matthew 25: 23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'**

In the New Earth, the curse will be removed. God's people will continue to work and serve, but it will no longer be a burden. Our work will be a source of happiness.

7. Of all the kinds of work that exists, what kind of work would want you do if you knew you would be successful at it?



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**How do we live life now?**

- **We live to glorify God in everything we do**

**1 Corinthians 10:31, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."**

**Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."**

8. How would your life be different if EVERYTHING you did was for the glory of God? Eat, work, play, spend, rest, interact with people?
9. How would your life be different if EVERYTHING you did was with a heart of thankfulness? Eat, work, play, spend, rest, interact with people, etc.?

- **We live as a witness**

**Matthew 28:17-20 "When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

10. What are some of the ways you intentionally live out this "Great Commission" Jesus gave his followers in your daily life?

- **We live as good stewards of our time, talent and treasure**

**Luke 12: 32-34 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."**



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It is easy for us to fall into the trap of believing that this life is what really matters.

11. What is one way that you intentionally store up treasures in heaven?

### The Takeaway:

#### How do we live life now?

- **We live to glorify God in everything we do**

Prayer: God help me to glorify you in everything I do. May my words, my actions, my attitudes and my all give you the glory that you alone deserve.

- **We live as a witness for God**

Prayer: God help me be an example that points others to you. I pray that you would refine me and fill me with courage to be a light of love and hope that shines for you glory.

- **We live as good stewards of our time, talent and treasure**

Prayer: God help me honor you by how I invest my time, talent and treasure here on earth in a way that impacts eternity. We long to hear you say those words "Well done, good and faithful servant."

#### Prayer Requests

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