

# LIFE GROUP

## Participant Guide

H E A V E N

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_



wentzville  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# HEAVEN | SESSION ONE

## BEFORE YOU MEET

Before your group meets for session one of the Heaven series, read pages 1-26 of the Heaven booklet that accompanies the series. Also, feel free to write down, take notes, or highlight areas that stood out to you as you read. This note-taking will help you in the group discussion. If you have any questions about the material, feel free to reach out to Alex at [alex@wentzvillecc.org](mailto:alex@wentzvillecc.org). We're praying for you as you dive into this topic!

It's important to remember that the Bible is God-breathed. Alcorn's thoughts, while Biblically-based, are not inspired. The tone of this booklet is conceptual; it's ok to disagree with some of Alcorn's thoughts. Still, we believe it is important to take time as a group thinking about Heaven and what God has in store for his children.

## WHILE YOU MEET

- 1. Growing up, how has your perception of heaven changed? What did you think heaven was like when you were a child? How is that picture different today?**
- 2. What stood out to you from this week's reading (pages 1-26)? Why do you think this particular section spoke to you?**
- 3. On page 7, J.C. Ryle was quoted as saying, "I pity the man who never thinks about heaven." Do you think our world spends much time thinking about heaven? Do you think our churches spend much time thinking about this subject? Share your thoughts with the group.**
- 4. Read the first two paragraphs on page 8. Many Christians fall into the trap of thinking that the intermediate heaven will be our permanent home. Author Randy Alcorn reminds us that when Christ returns, believers will enter their permanent home, the New Heaven and New Earth. Have your group members read Revelation 21-22 on their own. Then discuss the similarities you see between our physical Earth now and the New Earth that Christ establishes (Trees, Cities, Etc.)**
  - a. Throughout this life group book, when we use the phrase "Heaven," we will not be referring to the intermediate heaven. We will be referring to the New Earth that Jesus is establishing.**

5. Using Revelation 21-22, what are the differences between our current Earth and the New Earth that will be established?
  
6. As a group, read out loud pages 16-17 of the booklet. Going through this exercise of looking at similarities and differences, how does this change your understanding of your eternity with God?
  
7. Alcorn looks at Luke 24:36-43 and John 21:1-14 as answers to what we will look like in heaven. As a group, read these two sections of text out loud and then discuss what we learn about Jesus' resurrected body.
  
8. Pages 21-23 of your booklet highlight both work and rest as things we will do in the New Heaven and New Earth. Work will come without painful toil and rest will be deep and refreshing. Which one are you looking forward to more and why?
  
9. In the New Earth, we will be able to fully see the face of God the Father. Alcorn describes seeing God as the ultimate joy and life itself. What is it about seeing the face of God that brings about these results?
  
10. Going back to J.C. Ryle's quote, we are called to think about heaven regularly. Think about a current struggle you are facing. How does an accurate understanding of heaven speak into this struggle?

# HEAVEN | SESSION TWO

## BEFORE YOU MEET

Before you meet for session two of the Heaven series, read pages 27-40 of the Heaven booklet that accompanies the series.

## WHILE YOU MEET

- 1. Read page 27 of the booklet out loud as a group. Let's share our Heaven bucket lists! What is one thing you hope to do in the New Earth? (Alex's Answer: Go to the Moon, Laura's Answer: Ride a Dinosaur to Explore the New Earth, Keith's Answer: Grab Coffee with the Author of Hebrews)**
- 2. Why do you think people struggle with this idea that Heaven will be boring? Where does that thinking come from?**
- 3. This week, your reading addressed the question: Will there be animals in Heaven? As a group, read Isaiah 11: 6-9. What are some ways the New Earth will be similar to our current Earth and what are some ways it will be different?**
- 4. In response to the question of our homes in Heaven, Randy Alcorn quotes John 14:2 as Heaven being a place that is both intimate and spacious. If the New Earth includes things like homes, gardens, and cities, what does that tell us about God's original design for creation?**

5. As a group, read out loud pages 35-36 of your Heaven booklet. Among the list of what won't be in Heaven, what words stuck out to you? Why do you think that particular word or phrase stuck out to you?
  
6. Read through the list of what won't be in Heaven again on pages 35-36. Pick a few words or phrases from the list. How does the promise of eternity give us hope amidst these difficulties?
  
7. Regarding the concept of time in Heaven (pages 37-38) and what we know in Heaven (pages 39-40), were there any preconceived notions that you had about Heaven that were challenged through the readings?
  
8. Today your group has covered a wide range of topics regarding what Heaven will be like. Let's pretend a non-Christian friend comes to you and asks what you believe Heaven will be like. Write your answer in the blank space below. Once everyone is finished, share your answers with your group.
  
9. Were there any challenges from the list on pages 35-36 that you are currently struggling with? Share those with your group and then pray for one another.

# HEAVEN | SESSION THREE

## BEFORE YOU MEET

Before you meet for session three of the Heaven series, read pages 41-60 of the Heaven booklet that accompanies the series.

## WHILE YOU MEET

- 1. Today, we will be closing our Heaven life group discussion by focusing on relationships and how the topic of the New Earth relates to our connections with one another. Speaking of connections, who is the first Biblical person you want to connect with in Heaven (Outside of Jesus) and why?**
- 2. On Page 41, Alcorn cites Revelation 6:9-11 and says that we will remember what happened on Earth. The problem is that all of us carry memories that are painful. How can the New Earth be a place of no tears or no pain if we still retain our memories?**
- 3. Similar to our opening question, who are one or two loved ones that you are excited to connect with in Heaven? What inspired you about their faith in Jesus?**
- 4. Will there be marriage in Heaven? As a group read Matthew 22:23-33 and discuss what Jesus' answer is to this question.**

5. **While Christ’s answer may seem difficult, especially for those who have been in a long-term healthy marriage, we have to remember that there are aspects of heaven that are greater than we can even fathom. Read the quote below by Biblical scholar Mark Strauss and discuss how this changes your view on relationships in heaven.**
- a. “This passage bothers some Christians today, who fear that their deep and meaningful relationships with their spouses, nurtured over many years, will not continue into eternity. But this is to read too much into Jesus’ words. Though there is no need for procreation in eternity and so no marriage in its present form, we can assume that all relationships in God’s presence will be profoundly deeper than anything we experience in this life. In other words, our relationships with our spouses and families will no doubt be more intimate, not less, in eternity...The Bible teaches that the infinitely creative God of the universe, who has given us a glimpse of his creative genius in this marvelously diverse planet, is preparing something so much greater that our human mind cannot even fathom it. That isn't boring at all.”
6. **The last question in our booklet reminds us that Heaven is not our default. It is only through faith in Jesus that we can experience the perfect eternity that God desires for us. This narrow road is not widely taken by our world which should motivate us to go and share our faith. Similar to our first and fifth question, who are one or two people you need to connect with here that are missing out on the hope of Heaven? Who are the one or two you are friends with that don’t know Jesus? Share their names with the group.**
7. **This fall, winter, and spring have been designated for discipleship. You’ve explored Paul’s definition of love in 1 Corinthians 13, you’ve studied Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, and over the last few weeks, your group has unpacked this topic of Heaven and what God has in store for us. For the last eight months, your group has focused on discipleship. This summer, we want you to focus on fellowship. We want your group to be intentional about gathering and spending time together. Go out to eat, have a barbeque, go camping, catch a game, take a hike, fellowship together as a group. Here’s what we want to challenge you with: invite the names that were brought up in question eight to these fellowship events over the summer. A barbeque is often an easier starting point for non-Christians than a Bible study or church service. Have a great summer! We at WCC will pray for your group.**

# LETTER FROM KEITH

Hey Church Family!

We're so glad you're part of this journey with us. Life Groups are a vital part of our ministry at WCC and our prayer is that you grow closer in your relationship with Jesus and in community with one another!

Over the next three weeks, we will be focusing on the reality and hope of Heaven. We will be using insights from Randy Alcorn's book, "Heaven." We will explore what Scripture says about eternity and why it matters so much for how we live right now.

Heaven is often misunderstood. Some imagine it as distant, abstract, or even unrelatable. Floating around on clouds and playing harps even! But the Bible paints a far richer picture: a real place, filled with joy, purpose, restoration, and the unbroken presence of God. As we study together, our prayer is that Heaven becomes more than just a future destination - it becomes a present motivation.

These three weeks are designed to help you:

- Grow in your understanding of what Heaven will truly be like
- Strengthen your hope in God's promises
- Reframe your perspective on life, suffering, and eternity
- Deepen your love for Jesus and His kingdom

We hope this study lifts your eyes beyond the temporary and focuses your heart on what is eternal. The Bible reminds us, "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." I hope and pray this will be a time of great encouragement and hope for us all!

Blessings,

Keith Comp  
Senior Minister