

SEPTEMBER 27 - NOVEMBER 1 | NEXT STEPS

IMAGINE HEAVEN

NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES, GOD'S PROMISES
AND THE EXHILARATING FUTURE THAT AWAITS YOU

Evidence for the Afterlife

Everybody wonders—is there a God? Is Heaven real and if so, does Heaven have a place for me? It's a human question because there's a human longing to know—what happens when I die? How you think about Heaven affects everything in your life. Work through the following questions on your own, and get together with your running partner, life group, or family around the dinner table and talk through your answers.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you imagine heaven will be like? What do you think has inspired this view? Are you intrigued by reports of near death experiences?
2. Did anything stand out to you about the stories (or common elements) of people who had near death experiences (NDE)? Do you have any stories about near death experiences personally or from family and friends that resemble the common elements presented?
3. Read I Corinthians 15:42-44. One common theme of NDE seems to be “out of body – into a new body” experience. It seems that the bible suggests that when you die, you leave this body behind, but you are still you—in a new spiritual body. What aspects of “you” would you gladly leave behind? What parts do you desire to hold on to?
4. Read Hebrews 8:5. Describe a time that you felt fully alive. How well do you feel you were able to communicate this experience? In what ways do you think your current life is simply a shadow to what you were created for?
5. Read Revelation 21:23-24. Under what conditions would exposure to light inspire feelings of life and love? What relationships are you looking forward to experiencing again in heaven?
6. In the message, the teacher stated that God is love, the God of second chances. In light of that statement as well as this discussion of heaven and the afterlife, what next step do you need to take this week?

Key Scriptures

Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 (NLT)

They serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven. Hebrews 8:5 (NLT)

The city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. The nations will walk in its light. Revelation 21:23-24 (NLT)

Digging Deeper

Spiritual Outcome: Trust Christ - Trust Christ and look to him for reconciliation with God and for guidance in life

gatewaychurch.com/foundations

lifegroup.gatewaychurch.com/trust-christ