

Heaven



What Questions Do You Have About Heaven....
And Does the Bible Have Answers for Them?
A 4-Week Study



Heaven

Week #1

On Week #1 we'd like to start out this 4-week study by finding out what all of us are thinking and wondering about Heaven. We'd like to hear questions about heaven, experiences with losing someone in death, and maybe even fears about what happens after death.

Here are some examples of questions people might ask – there are no bad questions:

- Is there really a heaven?
- What do you think a person needs to do to be sure they will get there?
- What is heaven like? Does it feel like a real place?
- Is heaven just floating on clouds?
- How to get there...arrive?
- Is heaven going to be boring?
- Do you think we will sleep in heaven?
- Do you think we will eat in heaven?
- Will there be any sleeping
- What will a day look like
- What will you do
- Will we have a job in heaven?
- Will we know everyone?
- Will we still have best friends in heaven?
- Will we walk or fly?
- Will there be technology in heaven?
- Do people in heaven see us now?
- What will we look like?
- Will we be fat?

In the 3 weeks following this first class, I promise we are going to try to answer the questions from the Bible. If we can't find an answer, we'll say so. Our focus will be on whether or not there is an answer in the Bible. If some have different opinions, that's not a bad thing, but the whole point of this study will be to see what the Bible says, and that is where we will continually be heading.

As I've thought about leading this study, I've tried to be mindful of the fact that we probably have no idea what each attendee's own personal experience with looking toward heaven have been like. We want to be sensitive to anyone still walking through grief because of the loss of someone near to them. We'd just like to see if the Bible might shed some light on all of our questions.....and our goal is that after 4 weeks of conversation, laughter, sharing, and digging into the Word, there may be many of us who want to continue to explore what the Bible has to say about this wonderful place where we can live with Him forever.

Thank you for joining us! Here is a look at Week #1:

Week	Question
#1	1. Introduction to Week #1
	2. Can I Know For Sure I'm Going to Heaven?
	3. What Are the 10 Best Things About Heaven?
	4. Come up with our own Questions.

- Kathleen Dalton



1. Can I Know For Sure I Am Going to Heaven?

Look up John 14:1-6 in your Bible, and we'll talk through these verses and find an answer to this **frequently-asked question about heaven**:

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know."

⁵ Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:1-6)

When Jesus says these words to His disciples, they have just had the Last Supper together, and He has told them He is going to die very soon. Judas has left the group to go betray Him, and Jesus is taking his last few hours to tell His disciples the final things He wants them to know before the chaos of the crucifixion descends on them. His disciples are of course upset – not at

all understanding what is about to happen. They just know their beloved Jesus is telling them He is going to leave them, and is warning them about the hatred that is going to be poured out on not only Him, but on them, too. It must have been so frightening and confusing.

So, in John 14:1 Jesus tells them not to be afraid...not to be troubled. *"Let not your heart be troubled..."*

He reminds them that they are believers in God *"...you believe in God..."* – that's why they followed Him in the first place. They believed in the One, True God – the God of Israel - even before they initially followed Jesus. They believed that the God of Israel loved them and had promised He would send a Savior – a Messiah – Who would solve their sin problem forever.

They have followed Jesus for over 3 years. They have seen everything He has done. They have heard Him say that He is that Savior Who was to come. They have heard His claims that He is God Himself.

So now it is time for them to believe in Him. They have believed in God. It is time for them to believe that Jesus is God. To believe that He is the promised Messiah. *"...you believe in God, believe also in Me..."*

And that belief couldn't just be head-belief. The belief Jesus was asking for is a belief that says "My whole life is staked on this. I want to do whatever You think is best, Jesus....for I know for sure that You are God. I am from this point on a follower of You, Jesus, no matter what happens."

It's a heart-belief, not just a head-belief. It's a commitment, not just mental acceptance. It's for my whole life, not just for a little while. It's a "bowing of the knee"...it's worship.

"...In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you..." He goes on to tell them that once they have made this commitment to believing in Him, they have His promise – He's going back to the Father – to the home in heaven He lived in before He came to earth – and when He gets back there He's going to get that home ready for them, too. That home in heaven is going to be their final home – after this life is over. It's going to be the home they look forward to when this life gets hard. It's going to be the world they live in for ever and ever and ever. It's the home that really counts.

How is He going to get there? He is going to get there by dying on the cross, laying in the grave for 3 days, and then raising Himself from the dead!

OK. So how are they going to get there? How are they going to get from this world to the home that is waiting for them? He's going to come back and get them. *"...And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also..."*

There's no way He wants to live for all eternity without these friends He loves...so He will make sure Heaven is ready for them, and He will make sure they get there.

He repeats it to them again in verse 4: *"...And where I go you know, and the way you know..."* You know where I'm going, and you know how to get there.

Thomas is scared and confused. *"...Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?...."* And probably Thomas is not alone. They all are probably wondering...what does He mean?

So Jesus reassures them. Everything's going to be OK. Just believe in Me. Believe that I am Who I say I am. Because I'm God, if you believe in Me, your life can't be all about you. Believing in me is a huge change for you. Change your life from being all about you...to being all about Me. When you believe in Me, I take care of where you're going and how you'll get there. *"...Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me...."*

So...what's the answer to our question? Can we know for sure we are going to heaven?

Yes.

When we believe in Jesus with heart-belief, not just head-belief, He will get us there. Our assurance that we are going to heaven will not be based on how many good things we do on this earth. It will be based on whether or not we believe in Jesus. When we move from "I believe in God" to "I believe in Jesus – I realize He is God – I give my life to Him", we belong to Jesus, and He will get us home.

From Kathleen: Let me tell you, from my own personal experience, what that moment of belief was like:

So many thoughts came rolling through my head like thunderstorms. All at the same time I realized Jesus is God Himself...and I understood that He actually came as a baby and died on that cross for me – not just for "everyone" – but actually for me, personally. I thought hard about the fact that He actually was able to be dead and then make Himself alive again...and then I struggled with so much guilt! I saw my own sins parading before my mind's eye. There

was no escaping the truth - I knew I was a liar and a cheater ...that I'd been mean-spirited and hurtful and selfish and proud.... I knew I was not innocent in God's eyes...in Jesus' eyes...and that there was no reason in the world He would have died on that cross for me...and yet He did!

In my heart, I bowed my knee before Him and talked to Him. I tearfully admitted to Him that I didn't deserve Him dying in my place, and I thanked Him for what He did, and asked Him to take my life in His wonderful hands, and do whatever He wanted with it. I didn't want to be mine anymore. I wanted to be His.

No matter how you describe it, in that moment of very personal communication between you and Jesus, you are re-born. Born again. (John 3:3) You are born into the family of God. And from that moment on, you have a home waiting for you. A home in heaven that Jesus has gotten ready just for you. It's yours. Your name is on the little swinging sign at the end of the sidewalk where the gate will someday open wide for you to enter and check out your forever home. It's a real place, and it is waiting for you to come home.

The only thing you have to do is wait for the day He comes to get you. It's up to Him when that is...because...remember...your life is now in His hands. (Psalm 139)



2. What Are the 10 Best Things About Heaven?

(A Little Exercise for us to Do in Class...you can do it on your own, too...
list them in your order of importance. We'll put together our "Ten Best Things About Heaven"
list in class.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Next Page: Jot down the Questions We Come up With in Class:



3. Here are the questions we came up with in class:
(We'll be addressing as many as we can in the next 3 weeks)

	Assignment for Next Week:
	1. Bring any other questions you think of this week
	2. Look up, and read these verses: Genesis 1:1-3 Psalms 23:6 Luke 16:19-31 Ephesians 4:8-10 2 nd Corinthians 5:6-8 Revelation 21:1-4
	3. What did you learn about Heaven from the above verses?