

Icebreaker

Where on this earth would you most like to visit? —OR—
What is the most impressive place you have ever visited? —OR—
What do you think heaven will be like?

Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?
What struggles did you face?
What can you share from your personal Bible reading? (other than the designated reading)
Where did you see God in your daily life?

Step 2: GET FED

Scripture

Matthew 6:9 (ESV) ⁹ Pray then like this: “Our **Father in heaven**, hallowed be your name.

Mark 16:19 (ESV) ¹⁹ So then the **Lord Jesus**, after he had spoken to them, **was taken up into heaven** and sat down at the right hand of God.

Matthew 3:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, **the heavens were opened to him**, and he saw the **Spirit of God descending like a dove** and coming to rest on him;

Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV) ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, **there your heart will be also**.

Matthew 19:21 (ESV) ²¹ Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, **sell what you possess and give to the poor**, and you will have **treasure in heaven**; and come, follow me.”

Matthew 7:21 (ESV) ²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **the one who does the will of my Father** who is in heaven.

Matthew 13:44 (ESV) ⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and on finding one pearl of great value, went and **sold all that he had and bought it**.

Matthew 13:45-46 (ESV) ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and **sold all that he had and bought it**.

1 Peter 1:3-9 (ESV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be **born again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an **inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you**, ⁵ who **by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the **tested genuineness of your faith**—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—**may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ**. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ **obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls**.

2 Peter 3:8-13 (ESV) ⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The **Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance**. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what **sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness**, ¹² **waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God**, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and

dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Questions

Where does God reside? (Matt 6:1, 9, 5:45) Where does Christ reside? (Mark 16:19) Where does the Spirit reside? (Matt 3:16) Why is this important for us to know?

In Matthew, Christ tells us to lay up treasures in heaven. (Matt 6:20) What was Christ's reasoning for saying this? (Matt 6:21) Christ told the rich young man to sell all he had and give to the poor and he would have treasure in heaven. (Matt 19:21). What is the assumption behind these two passages? Where are we laying up our treasure?

Who will enter the kingdom of heaven? (Matt 7:21) What does this mean for us?

Of what value is the kingdom of heaven? (Matt 13:44, 45-46) What should we do to obtain it? What does this mean for our lives? What is our feeling of the value of heaven? Is this really a motivation for us or do we just give lip service to this idea?

To what has God caused us to be born? (1 Pet. 1:3)? What type of inheritance do we have? Where is this inheritance kept? (1 Peter 1:4) How is this being guarded? (1:5) What will our genuine tested faith result in at the revelation of Christ? (1:7) What is the outcome of our faith? (1:9) What picture should this paint in our minds regarding heaven? What motivation should it be for us?

Why is God patient with us? (2 Peter 3:9) What has God promised us? (2 Peter 3:13) How are we to live to obtain this promise? (1 Peter 3:11) God believes heaven is worth it. Do we act like it is?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

Write a description of what you think heaven will be like.

Make a list of your reasons for wanting to go to heaven.

Finally describe what you are willing to do to go to heaven.