

# The intermediate heaven

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## SMALL GROUP NOTES

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### Scriptures

Luke 23:43, Philippians 1:23, I Corinthians 15:54, Luke 9:30-31, Revelation 10:10-11, Revelation 6:9-11, Acts 7:55-56

### Overview

On Sunday Martin continued our Eternity series by looking at the topic of the *intermediate heaven* or *paradise* as Jesus calls it. The question of what happens when you die is one we can all ask at different points in our lives. The answer we find in the Bible is full of hope and encouragement.

Together we looked at Jesus' words to the thief when he was on the cross and how they showed us two things: paradise now and paradise felt. This is the truth that we will be with Him immediately when we die; He is our promise and our destination and knowing that can fuel our lives now. But then also that we will be heading to paradise - which means an "enclosed garden". This seems to be a physical place. It also appears to be a place where we are aware of our time on earth, aware of who God is and what's happening on the earth.

The promise of Jesus that we will be with him in paradise is a source of strength, encouragement and hope for believers and an invitation for those who don't know him.

### Questions

- 1) What has been your view so far on what happens when we die and why?
- 2) Take some time to consider these three characteristics of paradise:
  - a) it seems to be temporary
  - b) it seems to be physical
  - c) it seems to be we are awareThen as a group discuss how and why these can be an encouragement.
- 3) Together we heard how our when we think of Eternity our guaranteed constant is that we will be with Jesus. How can we grow at being those that make Jesus our focus in our lives?