



IMPACT COMMUNITIES
real life. real impact.

Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to experience real life & real impact.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Does Heaven have Harps and Cream Cheese? April 3 - 2016

1. Take some time to share about how God has been working in and through you this past week using the B.L.E.S.S. habits questions.
 - How has the Gospel been a **Blessing** to you this week?
 - What are you hearing from God as you **Listen** to the Spirit & read God's Word, the Bible?
 - Who have you had an opportunity to **Eat** with this week to build relationship?
 - Who has God led you to **Serve** this week?
 - In what ways have you been able to **Share** about Jesus this week?
 - **What would it look like if we treated each other and our neighbours as family? Think about BLESS through the lens of "family."**
2. Was there anything new or especially helpful that you learned from the message this week?
3. How often do you think about eternity? Do you resonate with Paul's attitude in Philippians 1:21-24 and 2 Corinthians 5:6-8? Or do you tend to live as though this life is the more important one?
4. What could you say to someone who views heaven as boring or unappealing? What misconceptions are probably at work in a person who holds that kind of view of heaven?
5. Read Revelation 6:9-11 and Revelation 21:1-7. In what ways will the present heaven (the Intermediate State) be better than what we experience now on earth? And in what ways will the new heaven and new earth be better than the present heaven?
6. Read 1 John 5:11-13. Who do you know that needs a reminder of the hope we have in Christ and the eternal life we will experience? Who do you know that does not have hope or life in Christ yet? Pray together as an IC for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with these people, and that God would be at work in their hearts.



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SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Does Heaven have Harps and Cream Cheese?

With Aaron Richert
Multiply Team Leader
April 3, 2016



Philippians 1:21-24

For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. ²² But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. ²³ I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. ²⁴ But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8

So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. ⁷ For we live by believing and not by seeing. ⁸ Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.

Where do those who believe in the resurrected Jesus go when they die?

- The **PRESENT HEAVEN**.
- Some refer to this as the **INTERMEDIATE STATE**.

What will it be like?

- We'll be **WITH CHRIST** (Philippians 1:23, 2 Corinthians 5:8, Luke 23:42-43)
- We'll be **CONSCIOUS** (Revelation 6:10)

- We won't yet have our **RESURRECTION BODIES** (Rev. 6:9)

- We will be **LOOKING FORWARD** (Rev. 6:10, 2 Peter 3:11-13)

- Ultimately, we'll be in a state of **RESTFUL HAPPINESS**.

"Happiness in Heaven is not based on ignorance but on perspective. Those who live in the presence of Christ find great joy in worshiping God and living as righteous beings in rich fellowship in a sinless environment."

Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*.

Big Idea: Heaven will be BETTER, but the New Earth will be BEST.

1 Thessalonians 4:13

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.

1 John 5:11-13

¹¹ And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. ¹³ I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.