



DEATH

WEEK 1

KICKING IT OFF

What did you grow up believing about life after death?

BIG IDEA

What you believe about death and eternity determines how you live.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Hebrews
9:27-28

“Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”

2 Corinthians
5:9-10 NLT

“So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

1 Peter
1:17 NLT

“And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as “temporary residents.”

Philippians
1:20-24 NLT

“And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don’t know which is better. I’m torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.”

Matthew
10:28

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Revelation
20:11-12, 15 NLT

“And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life ... And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.”

DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think it's so easy to live most of life ignoring what happens after we die?
2. What's something Pastor Jeff said in Sunday's message that's influencing the way you think about life after death?
3. Read Hebrews 9:27-28. What does this passage tell you about what happens after you die?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:9-10. What are your thoughts about the judgment this passage of which this passage speaks?
5. Read 1 Peter 1:17. What does this passage have to say about how we should live?
6. How do you already live like eternity matters? Are there any ways you're living like it doesn't?
7. Read Philippians 1:20-24. In what ways do you feel your life can honor Christ, whether you live or die?
8. Read Matthew 10:28. In what ways do you manage these opposing fears?
9. Read Revelation 20:11-12, 15. Discuss what feelings this passage invokes in you. Do you feel confident your name is written in God's Book of Life Why or why not?
10. What is one change you want to make in order to live with eternity in mind?

WRAPPING IT UP

God, thank You that this life is not the end. Thank You for making a way for us, through Jesus, to spend an eternal life with You. Holy Spirit, reveal to us the ways we are living with a short-term perspective. We want to do Your will here while we're on earth. Teach us how to live with eternity in mind. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

"And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as "temporary residents." 1 Peter 1:17 NLT

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the many high school and college seniors who will not be able to have their graduation ceremonies this month.





HEAVEN

WEEK 2

KICKING IT OFF

What have been your most common beliefs about heaven- either good or bad?

BIG IDEA

Heaven is infinitely and indescribably better than you can ever imagine.

KEY SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians
2:9

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."

Psalms
84:10

"Better is one day in your courts, O Lord, than a thousand elsewhere."

Psalms
16:11

"You will fill me with joy in your presence with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

Matthew
7:13-14

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction. But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life and only a few find it."

Revelation
21:1-4

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Isaiah
65:17

"Behold, I will create new heaven and a new earth."

2 Peter
3:13

"But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, and it will be the home of righteousness."

DISCUSSION

1. Read 1 Corinthians 2:9 and Psalm 84:10 and Psalm 16:11. Pastor Jeff mentioned in his Sunday message that many people live with the concept that heaven can wait. If these passages are true, and we truly believed them, how would that change the way we live?
2. When you consider these passages, how do they help you anticipate Heaven? What pleasures do you imagine await you there?
3. Read Matthew 7:13-14. Pastor Jeff also mentioned the second lie that many people believe, and that is that most people are going to Heaven. How does this passage contradict that belief?
4. Do you have difficulty believing that hell is our default destination? Why or why not?
5. Pastor Jeff said in his Sunday message: "Because of sin, hell, is our default destination, until we realize and accept grace and love God's sinless Son, Jesus Christ." Have you accepted God's grace and love offered through His Son Jesus Christ?
6. Read Revelation 21:1-4, Isaiah 65:17 and 2 Peter 3:13. Discuss what these passages teach you about heaven.
7. We often think about what heaven is like, but fail to ponder what a new earth might be like. Discuss what you might imagine God doing in creating a new earth.

WRAPPING IT UP

Who do you know that may need to know the truth about heaven and hell and the salvation that comes from Jesus Christ? Encourage them to watch Sunday's message and then, if they are willing, discuss the message with them.

MEMORY VERSE

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction. But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life and only a few find it." **Matthew 7:13-14**

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for our televised worship services, that many who have never heard God's truth proclaimed will come to trust in Jesus, and be assured of Heaven.





WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

WEEK 3

KICKING IT OFF

What do you think are some common misconceptions about Heaven?

BIG IDEA

Having a picture of Heaven can inspire you to press on in your Christian walk.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation **21:9-27**

“One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits thick. The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst] The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass. I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”

DISCUSSION

Read Revelation 21:9-27 and discuss the following:

1. Describe a moment when you felt like you experienced a piece of heaven. What made it so magnificent?
2. After reading this passage, what are some misconceptions you may have had about heaven?
3. Why do you think John was given such a detailed view of Heaven?
4. What can you learn from the details about Heaven given in this passage?
5. List all the precious jewels, stones and metals cited in this vision of Heaven. What do you imagine their significance to be?
6. We learned in Pastor Jeff's Sunday message that Heaven is illuminated by the brilliance of God, and that the people of God are full of the Light of God. What does the absence of darkness, death, mourning and pain in Heaven bring to mind for you?
7. Philippians 2:15 speaks of the children of God shining "like stars in the universe, holding out the word of life." In essence, you have the opportunity to practice what you'll be doing in Heaven, right here, right now. How can you live that out in greater ways?
8. In John 8:12, Jesus describes Himself as the Light of the World. How does this affirm what you read in the Revelation passage?

WRAPPING IT UP

What about Heaven are you most looking forward to?

MEMORY VERSE

"The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp."

Revelation 21: 23

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for Sunnybrook Kids
as we seek to stay
connected with kids
and their families
over the summer months.





KICKING IT OFF

Name some popular Hell movies. What do these movies tend to depict?

BIG IDEA

Hell exists for God to deal righteously with Satan and with unbelievers.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Matthew
7:13-14

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

Revelation
20:10

"And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

2 Thessalonians
1:8-9

"He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord."

Luke
16:19-24, 27-28

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, "Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire." ...He answered, "Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment."

Revelation
14:10-11

"...they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever."

Luke
12:5

"But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."

DISCUSSION

1. On a scale of 1-10, how comfortable do you feel with your understanding of Hell? Explain your answer.
2. "What you believe about eternity determines how you live today." How does this apply to Hell?
3. What are some reasons you or others struggle to believe Hell exists?
4. Read Matthew 17:13-14. What point does it seem Jesus is trying to get across through this imagery?
5. Read Revelation 20:10, Luke 16:19-24, and Revelation 14:10-11. These passages give insight to the unfathomable and unending torment of hell. Yet some see hell as an ongoing party with all their friends in "low places". How might you warn those who fail to see the gravity of such a place?
6. Read Luke 12:15. Examine your last few weeks. What does your life say about what you believe about fearing God and eternity? Is there anything you want to change?
7. What's the first practical step you can take this week to live, love, and serve with eternity in mind?

WRAPPING IT UP

God, we believe You are good. Thank You for giving us choice. Thank You for giving us Jesus. Thank You for access to You and Your love and grace forever. Inspire us to love everyone we can with Your practical grace and truth that promises eternal life. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

"But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him." **Luke 12:15**

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for our students and their small group leaders and parents – that they will continue to grow in their faith throughout the summer.

