

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **It's Hard to Believe – That Heaven is Real.** March 20, 2016



## Welcome & Prayer

Read **John 14:1-7**

**PRAY \*JESUS** – You are the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. You are Creator, Savior, Beginning & End.

Heaven is all about You. None of us our good enough to make it there or earn entry by our own merit, so THANK YOU for making a way for us, being the way for us, and inviting us to live with You for eternity. Our passion for You and our passion for Heaven should be inseparable - The more we learn about You, the more excited we get about Heaven. The more we learn about Heaven, the more excited we get about You. Holy Spirit, help our understanding and passion to grow more than ever this year, and inspire us to share this Hope with others, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

## Connect

- \* **What are 1-2 ways that you or your Family like to prepare for and engage in EASTER?**  
(family/church traditions, readings, meals...)
- \* **Did anyone in our Group give their life to Christ, or get Baptized...on/around Easter?**

## Check In

- \* **Following last week's Discussion, what is one way that your Bible reading has impacted you this week?**

## Sunday Message Feedback

\* **What initially impacted you from Sunday's message?**

1. a. **Describe the first funeral you ever attended. What memories do you have?** How did it effect you.  
b. **What is one thing that you want to do in life before you die?** (i.e., what is on your bucket list?)  
c. **Why do you think people are reluctant to talk about death?**  
d. **How could that reluctance affect the way we live?** Discuss.
2. **When you were a Child (under 12), what did you think Heaven is like?** Has your belief in & understanding of Heaven changed since then, and if so, what is 1 example of how it's changed?
3. Shawn introduced the message by saying that **most people do believe in heaven.**  
**What is hard to believe is the belief that not everyone will go there!**  
\*Do you find that true in your experience with people? Discuss.
4. **Read Matthew 7:13.** What do these words of Jesus tell us about heaven? Discuss.

5. Shawn talked about a number of different beliefs that people have regarding the afterlife.

Which one(s) have you heard people use or have used yourself:

- a. *'As long as we are sincere then any spiritual path works.'* *'There are many ways to Heaven'*  
*'Only ignorant people think Jesus is the only way to heaven'*  
(instead, check out John 14:6)
- b. *'A God of love would never send anyone to hell.'*  
*'Lots of good deeds can balance out a few bad deeds!'* *'I can get to Heaven on my own terms/merit'*  
(instead, read Mt.7:13-14; Mt.25:46; Rom.6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Luke 12:5; Heb.9:27)
- c. **Other Myths about Heaven:**
  - : *'We become Angels'* (instead, read Psalm 8:4-8; 1 Corinthians 15; Revelation)
  - : *'We have to get through Peter at the Gates of Heaven'* (instead, read Rev.20:12)
  - : *'Heaven is going to be boring'* (instead, read Isaiah 65:17-25; Revelation 19 & 21)

6. Do you agree with this statement, "**Heaven is FOR us but not ABOUT us.**" Discuss.

Read **Isaiah 65:17-25** (or Rev.21:1-4); **Corinthians 4:17-18** & **1Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**What do you imagine heaven will be like?** Discuss

7. Read **2 Corinthians 5:1-10**

- a. *What can Christians look forward to? (5:1)*
- b. *Why did Paul long for heaven? (5:2-3)*
- c. *For what purpose has God made us? (5:4-5)*
- d. *What is true as long as we are alive on this earth? (5:6)*
- e. *How is the Christian life lived? (5:7)*
- f. *What should be all Christians goal? (5:9)*
- g. *Who will be judged by Jesus? (5:10)*
- h. *What will people receive at the judgement seat of Christ? (5:10)*

8. Read **Matthew 6:19-21**

- a. What is Jesus teaching us about Heaven in these verses? Discuss.

9. If someone asked you:

*"Do you believe in Heaven, and how do you know that you'll be there one day?"*

– how would you answer?

10. Do you think that JESUS wants us to have **clarity**, a **growing understanding**, a **vibrant passion**, and a **deep assurance** about our relationship with Him and Heaven?

**Do you personally feel ready/confident/assured about your eternal destiny?**

**\*If yes, how so?**

**\*If not, would you like to be?**

**\*How can we encourage you?**

## Application

**Why is it important to have a Biblical understanding and passion for Heaven?**

**What difference should the truth and hope Heaven make in our daily lives?**

**How can you live more intentionally with the Hope of Heaven in your life?**

Share examples...

### Heavenly Minded & Earthly Good

Looking forward to the eternal world, is not, as some suppose, a form of escapism or wishful thinking. It is one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean we are to leave this present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought the most of the next. Aim for heaven and you get earth thrown in.

- C.S. Lewis

## & Prayer

**Based on the Discussion and Sharing...PRAY for one another.**

**Thanksgiving for our Salvation & the Hope of Heaven.** (We don't have to save ourselves)

**ReAssurance and Encouragement for those who are struggling, doubting...**

**Celebration for those who have decided to trust in Jesus for Eternal Life.**

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## Additional Resources

Please ask your Leader to email you the document *Heaven – Resources to Consider*

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## Coming Up at Main Street

### \*Good Friday & Easter Sunday

**Friday, March 25** – 10am Service (1hr).

Includes Communion. Separate Kids program provided up to Gr.4.

**Sunday, March 27** – 9am & 10:45am Services.

Regular Kids programs.

### \*Baptism Celebration

**Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. 6pm – Main Street Auditorium.

Info & Registration: [www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism)

### \*Set Free Retreat (formerly Encounter God)

**Fri/Sat, April 8/9**. Main Street Chapel.

Info & Registration: [www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free)

### \*Prayer Summit

**Sunday, April 24**. Main Street Auditorium.

(there is no Summit in March because of Easter Weekend)