

Faith Community Church Transformed

Faith Group Questions & Discussion Guide



Opening Prayer:

Icebreaker Question: When you think about heaven, what's the first image or feeling that comes to mind? Where do you think that image came from?

Key Takeaways:

- 1. Death is separation, not cessation; our spirit goes immediately to heaven or hell.
- 2. Three stages of existence: Mortal, Intermediate, and Immortal.
- 3. The Holy Spirit is our guarantee His presence in our lives is a seal God's down payment assuring us of our future glorified bodies and eternal inheritance.
- 4. Heaven, now and at resurrection, is marked by perfection, worship, and rest.
- 5. Keeping heaven in mind should lead us to worship passionately, rest in God's grace, and share this hope with others.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What way did you come up with to invest in eternity?
- 2. Paul describes our current bodies as "tents" and "jars of clay." How does viewing your body this way change your perspective on aging, illness, or physical limitations? (2 Corinthians 4:7, 5:1, 4)
- 3. What did you learn about what happens between death and resurrection? How do you approach concepts on which the Bible is silent? (Ps 62:1-2, Lament 3:25-26)
- 4. Read Philippians 3:20-21 together. What does it mean that Jesus will "transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body"? How does this give you hope? (1 Cor 15:35-49)
- 5. When have you found yourself "groaning" in your physical body or circumstances? How can this groaning actually point you toward hope? (Romans 8:20-25)

- 6. Ephesians 1 says that the Holy Spirit is God's "down payment" guaranteeing our future resurrection. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's work in your life? How does knowing He's a guarantee of your inheritance affect your daily walk with God? (John 16:8-14, Ephesians 1:13-14)
- 7. Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-20. What guidance does Paul give us about how to live out our hope in this world? Come up with practical ways.

Practical Applications:

- 1. Memorize Philippians 3:20-21 Hide this truth in your heart as an anchor during difficult times.
- 2. Evaluate your priorities Ask yourself: "Am I living as a citizen of heaven, or am I too attached to this temporary 'tent'?" How can you shift your priorities?
- 3. Choose two of the practical ways to live out our hope that you discussed in #7 above. Journal how you apply those this week, and share next week!
- 4. Share your hope Have a conversation with one person about the hope of heaven and resurrection through Jesus Christ.
- 5. Reflect on mortality Spend time honestly considering your own mortality. Does it produce fear or hope? Bring your feelings to God in prayer.
- 6. Worship with eternity in mind During your next worship service, think about how you are joining with those who are already worshiping Jesus in heaven. Pour out your praise

Closing Prayer: Father, help those here and in our circles who are "groaning" in their physical bodies. Grant us courage, and draw people around us to Christ through how we live out our hope for eternity.