

## Revelation: Looking Forward to Heaven

▼ Click on a study title you'd like to see ▼

- 2 Study 1: **GOD WILL MAKE EVERYTHING NEW**  
*Leader's Guide — Participant's Guide*
- 11 Study 2: **THE BRIDAL CITY WILL BE BEYOND IMAGINATION**  
*Leader's Guide — Participant's Guide*
- 18 Study 3: **GOD'S PRESENCE WILL BE OUR LIGHT**  
*Leader's Guide — Participant's Guide*
- 25 Study 4: **HEAVEN WILL BE A GARDEN OF LIFE**  
*Leader's Guide — Participant's Guide*
- 33 Study 5: **JESUS PROMISED US HE WOULD COME SOON**  
*Leader's Guide — Participant's Guide*



## God Will Make Everything New

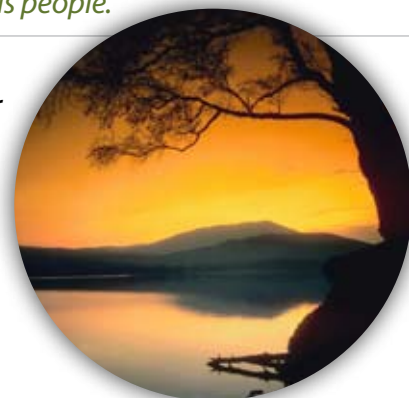
Leader's Guide

Leader's Guide

# God Will Make Everything New

*God will renew the earth at the end of time, creating heaven on this planet and establishing a permanent place of dwelling for and with his people.*

*Believers must understand that this earth is not their home. We were created for the new heaven and new earth that God has in store. Knowing this is not to create a longing to escape, but to be realists—to lay hold of hope and endurance, to be thirsty for Christ, and to overcome all that bars our way here.*



Scripture: Revelation 21:1–8

Based On: The series builder “Heaven: Nothing Could Be Better,” by Lee Eclov, [PreachingToday.com](http://PreachingToday.com).



# God Will Make Everything New

Leader's Guide

## Part 1 Identify the Issue

**Note to leader: Provide each person with the Participant's Guide, included at the end of this study.**

Some feel that heaven is an impractical notion to study. There is concern that we might be so heavenly minded that we're of no earthly good. But the greater danger is to be so earthly minded that we're of no heavenly good. We focus on heaven not as a respite from real life, but to gain strength for real life.

Great Christians of the past have written with passion about why we long for heaven. Augustine wrote, "I am groaning with inexpressible groaning on my wanderer's path, and remembering Jerusalem with my heart lifted up towards it—Jerusalem my homeland, Jerusalem my mother."

C. S. Lewis said, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in the world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

G. K. Chesterton wrote, "The modern philosopher had told me again and again that I was in the right place, and I had still felt depressed even in acquiescence .... When I heard that I was in the wrong place ... my soul sang for joy, like a bird in spring. I knew now ... why I could feel homesick at home."<sup>1</sup>

**[Q]** When you think of heaven, what comes to mind? Where do these thoughts come from?

**[Q]** Do you look forward to heaven? Why or why not?

## Part 2 Discover the Eternal Principles

### Teaching Point One: We will finally have heaven on earth.

Read Revelation 21:1. Gary Larson wrote a *Far Side* cartoon that showed a fellow with wings sitting alone on a heavenly cloud, looking bored and thinking, "Wish I had brought a magazine." What a misconception.

People in heaven are in a real world free from sin and Satan. They are busy, joyful, and themselves—their personality is not lost, it is perfected. Heaven is an entirely different universe. We will live on a remade planet not so different from this earth, except all that has been tainted by sin will be cleansed and redeemed.

C. S. Lewis captures the idea of the new heaven and new earth in the last of his Narnia books.

<sup>1</sup> All quotations from Randy Alcorn, *Heaven* (Tyndale, 2004), p. 160.



## God Will Make Everything New

### Leader's Guide

*The Last Battle* shows Lucy mourning the loss of Narnia, the great world created by Aslan, the beloved world that she assumes has been forever destroyed. Jewel the unicorn mourns too, calling his beloved Narnia, “The only world I’ve ever known.”

Although Lucy and her family and friends are on the threshold of Aslan’s country (heaven), she still looks back at Narnia and feels a profound loss. But as she gets deeper into Aslan’s country, she notices something totally unexpected.

“Those hills,” said Lucy, “the nice woody ones and the blue ones behind—aren’t they very like the southern border of Narnia?”

“Like!” cried Edmund after a moment’s silence. “Why, they’re exactly like. Look, there’s Mount Pire with his forked head, and there’s the pass into Archenland and everything!”

“And yet they’re not like,” said Lucy. “They’re different. They have more colours on them and they look further away than I remembered and they’re more ... more ... oh, I don’t know ...”

“More like the real thing,” said the Lord Digory softly.

Suddenly, Farsight the Eagle spread his wings, soared thirty or forty feet up into the air, circled round and then alighted on the ground.

“Kings and Queens,” he cried, “We have all been blind. We are only beginning to see where we are. From up there I have seen it all—Ettinsmuir, Beaversdam, the Great River, and Cair Paravel still shining on the edge of the Eastern Sea. Narnia is not dead. This is Narnia.”

“But how can it be?” said Peter. “For Aslan told us older ones that we should never return to Narnia, and here we are.”

“Yes,” said Eustace. “And we saw it all destroyed and the sun put out.”

“And it’s all so different,” said Lucy.

“The Eagle is right,” said the Lord Digory. “Listen, Peter. When Aslan said you could never go back to Narnia, he meant the Narnia you were thinking of. But that was not the real Narnia. That had a beginning and an end. It was only a shadow or a copy of the real Narnia, which has always been here and always will be here: just as our own world, England and all, is only a shadow or copy of something in Aslan’s real world. You need not mourn over Narnia, Lucy. All of the old Narnia that mattered, all the dear creatures, have been drawn into the real Narnia through the Door. And of course it is different; as different as a real thing is from a shadow or as waking life is from a dream.”

The difference between the old Narnia and the new Narnia was like that. The new one was a deeper country: every rock and flower and blade of grass looked as if it meant more. I can’t describe it any better than that: if you ever get there, you will know what I mean.

It was the Unicorn who summed up what everyone was feeling. He stamped his right forehoof on the ground and neighed and then cried: “This is the land I have been looking for all my life, thought I never knew it till now. The reason why we loved the old Narnia was that it sometimes looked a little like this.”

—Quoted in Randy Alcorn, *Heaven* (Tyndale, 2004), pp. 238–239.



## God Will Make Everything New

### Leader's Guide

Read Philippians 3:7–21.

- [Q] How did Paul's view of heaven affect the way he lived on earth?
- [Q] What was his goal that made sacrifice on earth seem small in comparison?
- [Q] According to verse 19, what distracts us from living in view of heaven?
- [Q] In what way will our bodies be like Jesus' resurrected body (v. 21)?
- [Q] Do you think heaven will be boring? Why or why not?

### Teaching Point Two: God's people will be a beautiful city in a permanent home.

Read Revelation 21:2. Ultimately, any city is its people, and right now God is gathering his people in paradise. One day, when Satan has been subdued and sin put away forever, God's people will descend to take our eternal residence in this new heaven and earth. We Christians are the bride of Christ; thus it is the beloved church of Jesus that descends to our permanent home in the new heaven and new earth.

Heaven will be beautiful, in part because we will be beautiful—all our sins, sorrows, and stains will be gone. Yet the New Jerusalem is not only a people, it is also a place. Read John 14:1–4. Sin has so discolored and distorted our concept of a city that the prospect of living forever in a city may not be appealing. But the New Jerusalem will be a holy city where every relationship is good, every sight beautiful, and every corner safe; it will be a city decked out like a bride.

- [Q] Do you think in heaven in terms of a city? Why or why not?
  - Why might that have appealed more to people of ancient times than to us?
  - How does thinking about heaven being a sinless city change everything?
- [Q] What is the way to the place where Jesus was going (John 14:6)? With that in mind, what will be the best part about heaven?
- [Q] How does that thought make the picture of a bride come alive?

### Teaching Point Three: God will finally and forever live with his people.

Read Revelation 21:3–8. Revelation 21:3 states God's covenant—his great promise to his people. Adam and Eve's sin in the Garden separated them from God, but since then God has been yearning to resume fellowship with his people. No one has looked forward to this day more than



## God Will Make Everything New

### Leader's Guide

God himself, whose love has spared no expense to make it reality.

The word *dwelling* here literally means *tent*, pointing back to the Old Testament tabernacle and temple, and it is related to the word for God's glory in the Old Testament—*shekinah*. The word *dwelling* also reminds us of what the New Testament says about Jesus. Read John 1:14.

God living with us means all sorrow and all memory of sorrow will be gone forever. Read Psalm 56:8.

**[Q]** Why would God record our tears? What could come of that?

**[Q]** How have we seen God's glory in Christ (John 1:14)? In what way does that give us a glimpse into what heaven is like?

**[Q]** Which of the following is most appealing to you about heaven?

- Sinlessness
- Perfect perspective
- Perfect worship
- Perfect fellowship
- Perfect fulfillment

### Optional Activity:

**Purpose:** *To help us realize the joy and privilege of looking forward to an eternity with Christ.*

**Activity:** *On a poster board or whiteboard, brainstorm and list all the ways that the world falsely views heaven. When you're done, look at each one and discuss the corresponding truth about heaven.*

## Part 3 Apply Your Findings

Our goal in thinking of heaven is not to escape, but to be realists—to lay hold of hope and endurance, to be thirsty for Christ, and to overcome all that bars our way here. Heaven, for the believer, is in our blood.



## God Will Make Everything New

### Leader's Guide

Mark Buchanan puts it this way: “Our sorrow has as much to do with remembered suffering as it does with present suffering. Indeed, most human suffering is cumulative, a lifetime’s worth of losses and misses, heartaches and hardships, cruel words uttered and tender words withheld, all piled up and rotting” (*Things Unseen* [Multnomah, 2002], p. 86).

The 2005 Pulitzer Prize was given to a wonderful book by Marilynne Robinson entitled *Gilead*. In one scene, two elderly pastors are talking:

Boughton says he has more ideas about heaven every day. He said, “Mainly I just think about the splendors of the world and multiply by two. I’d multiply by ten or twelve if I had the energy. But two is much more than sufficient for my purposes.”

**Action Point:** Think of one person whom you could share with this week about what heaven is like. Pray for the opportunity to do so.

—Study by Lee Eclov, with JoHannah Reardon



## God Will Make Everything New

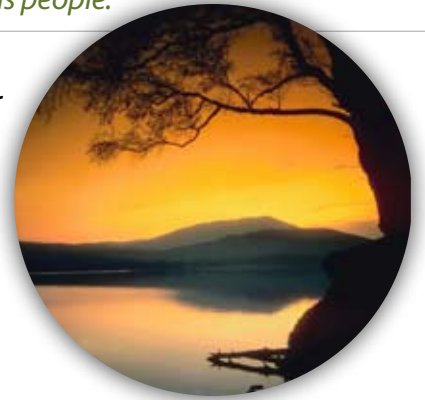
Participant's Guide

Participant's Guide

# God Will Make Everything New

*God will renew the earth at the end of time, creating heaven on this planet and establishing a permanent place of dwelling for and with his people.*

*Believers must understand that this earth is not their home. We were created for the new heaven and new earth that God has in store. Knowing this is not to create a longing to escape, but to be realists—to lay hold of hope and endurance, to be thirsty for Christ, and to overcome all that bars our way here.*



Scripture: Revelation 21:1–8

Based On: The series builder “Heaven: Nothing Could Be Better,” by Lee Eclov, [PreachingToday.com](http://PreachingToday.com).



# God Will Make Everything New

## Participant's Guide

### Part 1 Identify the Issue

Some feel that heaven is an impractical notion to study. There is concern that we might be so heavenly minded that we're of no earthly good. But the greater danger is to be so earthly minded that we're of no heavenly good. We focus on heaven not as a respite from real life, but to gain strength for real life.

Great Christians of the past have written with passion about why we long for heaven. Augustine wrote, "I am groaning with inexpressible groaning on my wanderer's path, and remembering Jerusalem with my heart lifted up towards it—Jerusalem my homeland, Jerusalem my mother."

C. S. Lewis said, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in the world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

G. K. Chesterton wrote, "The modern philosopher had told me again and again that I was in the right place, and I had still felt depressed even in acquiescence ... . When I heard that I was in the wrong place ... my soul sang for joy, like a bird in spring. I knew now ... why I could feel homesick at home."<sup>1</sup>

### Part 2 Discover the Eternal Principles

**Teaching Point One: We will finally have heaven on earth.**

**Teaching Point Two: God's people will be a beautiful city in a permanent home.**

**Teaching Point Three: God will finally and forever live with his people.**

**[Q]** Which of the following is most appealing to you about heaven?

- Sinlessness
- Perfect perspective
- Perfect worship
- Perfect fellowship
- Perfect fulfillment

<sup>1</sup> All quotations from Randy Alcorn, *Heaven* [Tyndale, 2004], p. 160.



## God Will Make Everything New

Participant's Guide

### Part 3 Apply Your Findings

Mark Buchanan puts it this way: “Our sorrow has as much to do with remembered suffering as it does with present suffering. Indeed, most human suffering is cumulative, a lifetime’s worth of losses and misses, heartaches and hardships, cruel words uttered and tender words withheld, all piled up and rotting” (*Things Unseen* [Multnomah, 2002], p. 86).

The 2005 Pulitzer Prize was given to a wonderful book by Marilynne Robinson entitled *Gilead*. In one scene, two elderly pastors are talking:

Boughton says he has more ideas about heaven every day. He said, “Mainly I just think about the splendors of the world and multiply by two. I’d multiply by ten or twelve if I had the energy. But two is much more than sufficient for my purposes.”

**Action Point:** Think of one person whom you could share with this week about what heaven is like. Pray for the opportunity to do so.

—Study by Lee Eclou, with JoHannah Reardon



## The Bridal City Will Be Beyond Imagination

Leader's Guide

Leader's Guide

# The Bridal City Will Be Beyond Imagination

*Our eternal home is a city like no other—a holy city radiant with the glory and power of God.*

*Believers must fill their minds with pictures of heaven to put life on earth in perspective. E. M. Bounds said in *Heaven: A Place, A City, a Home*, "Earth is but a pilgrim's stay, a pilgrim's journey, a pilgrim's tent. Heaven is a city, permanent, God-planned, God-built, whose foundations are as stable as God's throne." This study will help us get a picture of what that permanent home is like.*



Scripture: Revelation 21:9–21

Based On: The series builder "Heaven: Nothing Could Be Better," by Lee Eclov, [PreachingToday.com](http://PreachingToday.com).



# The Bridal City Will Be Beyond Imagination

Leader's Guide

## Part 1 Identify the Issue

**Note to leader: Provide each person with the Participant's Guide, included at the end of this study.**

We focus on heaven not as a respite from real life, but to gain strength for real life. Richard Baxter, an English Puritan of the mid-1600s, suffered a total collapse when he was only 35. Thinking he was soon to die, he began to meditate on heaven—a practice that led to what some regard as the finest book on heaven ever written. He wrote:

For want of this recourse to heaven thy soul is as a lamp not lighted ... Shall we live in earthly cares and sorrows, as if we knew of no such thing [as heaven]? And rejoice no more in these discoveries, than if the Lord had never written it? O that our hearts were as high as our hopes, and our hopes as high as these infallible promises. (Richard Baxter, *Saints' Everlasting Rest*, Chapter XI)

We must keep heaven in mind so we will remember that earth is not our home.

**[Q]** Describe how you think heaven will look. What makes you think this?

## Part 2 Discover the Eternal Principles

**Teaching Point One: Our eternal home is a city like no other.**

Read Revelation 21:9–10. The city John saw is the only truly holy city—where every heart is pure, every intention and act righteous. The city's name is Jerusalem, but it's not the same as the war-torn Jerusalem we know on earth. This Jerusalem will finally live up to its name: foundation of peace, *shalom*.

This city comes “down out of heaven from God.” The holy city is currently being assembled in heaven, but one glorious day it will be lowered through the new heavens to the new earth. The reason for the delay is that before our heavenly home is a place, it is a people so loved by and close to Christ that he calls us his bride; we will spend eternity being loved lavishly.

**[Q]** Why do you think Christ calls us his bride? Compare being a bride on earth to our role as his bride.

**[Q]** What will make the new Jerusalem holy? Why can no earthly city ever be holy now?



## The Bridal City Will Be Beyond Imagination

Leader's Guide

**Leader's Note:** *Jesus Christ himself will make it holy, because only those who know and love him will dwell there. Even if only Christ-followers lived in an earthly city, it would still be flawed, because we are flawed. We must wait until heaven, when Christ will overcome our sin nature once and for all.*

### Teaching Point Two: Our eternal home radiates the glory of God.

Read Revelation 21:11. A person's glory is what is most remarkable about them, what makes them shine in someone else's eyes. The glory of God is his flawless character, his infinite abilities, and his astonishing works.

God's glory only shines in a pure environment; otherwise, it incinerates all it touches. Read Exodus 19:16–24.

We gain understanding of God's glory by looking at what God has saved—people once hopelessly lost and dead who are now alive, free, and good.

**[Q]** What do you think it means that the Holy City will shine with the glory of God like a precious jewel? How does this help our understanding of what God is like?

**[Q]** Why do you think God represented himself to the nation of Israel in such a dramatic and frightening way (Ex. 19:16–24)? What does that tell us about God?

**[Q]** Why did God ask Moses to set the mountain apart as holy (v. 23)?

**[Q]** Have you ever experienced something that was awesome and powerful, such as a storm or a sunset? What's the difference between those kinds of things and being in the presence of God?

**Leader's Note:** *Although we fear God because he is all-powerful, we also know that he is all loving, which casts out all fear.*

### Teaching Point Three: Our eternal home reflects our spiritual heritage.

Read Revelation 21:12–14. The wall will speak of God's protection, both in this life and in the life to come, and will remind us of the temporary "tents" we lived in here. The 12 guardian angels at the gates will remind us that such angels were constantly guarding us while we were on earth. These eternal gates need no guards, but the angels will be eternal reminders of God's vigilance.



## The Bridal City Will Be Beyond Imagination

### Leader's Guide

A similar example might be the guards who march day and night in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. These guards are not needed because of threats to that tomb, but are a national reminder that those unknown heroes are precious to us.

The 12 gates bearing the names of the 12 tribes of Israel will be an eternal reminder of how we came to enter this New Jerusalem. The forefathers of the people of God were broken men whom God used to bring the nations to himself.

The three gates on each of the city's four sides signal that this city is open to people who come from every direction. In reflecting on the 12 gates of the holy city, D. L. Moody wrote:

From opposite standpoints of the Christian world, from different quarters of human life and character, through various expressions of their common faith and hope, through diverse modes of conversion, through different portions of the Holy Scripture, will the weary travelers enter the Heavenly City and meet each other—"not without surprise"—on the shores of the same river of life. (Calvin Miller, *Images of Heaven: Reflections on Glory* [Shaw, 2000], p. 123)

The 12 foundations bearing the names of the 12 apostles will forever remind us that our heavenly citizenship was built on the truth and travels of the original 12 emissaries of Jesus. Read Ephesians 2:19–22.

**[Q]** Why were we foreigners and aliens before we came to know Christ?

**[Q]** How are we being built into a temple?

**Leader's Note:** *The Quest Study Bible says, "Prior to the cross, many believed God's glory could only reside in the temple. But Paul teaches that the church—made up of God's people—is becoming God's new residence. The construction work isn't finished yet. That's why it's described as both a present reality and a future goal."*

**[Q]** In what way is the new Jerusalem built on the apostles and the prophets (v. 20)?

### Optional Activity:

**Purpose:** *To help us understand the heritage we have from the great men and women of God who went before us.*

**Activity:** *Looking through Hebrews 11, name what each person listed did to help us in our faith.*



## The Bridal City Will Be Beyond Imagination

Leader's Guide

### Teaching Point Four: Our eternal home reveals the measure of God's work.

Read Revelation 21:15–21. Twelve is a biblical symbol of completion; to translate 12,000 stadia to 1,500 miles obscures the point that this city is both vast and complete. The city is the measure of God's grace, for all who make up this city are there by the grace of God. This city is so big because the Lord Jesus Christ has saved so many!

The city is the measure of God's holiness. The Holy of Holies in the tabernacle and the temple were perfect cubes because they were based on the eternal reality of this city: the everlasting fellowship of God and his people.

The city is the measure of God's inexpressible beauty—a whole city of transparent gold built on vast layers of variegated jewels and pearl gates, reaching far into the sky.

Eugene Petersen says in his book *Reversed Thunder*:

Our flawed and faithless ancestors give access and foundation to heaven ... We arrive from all directions through Israelite access; we live, on every side, on apostolic foundations. Everything ventured in Israel and church is complete before our eyes. Heaven is an intricate system of completions. (HarperCollins, 1991; pp. 175, 177)

[Q] Does this description of the new Jerusalem appeal to you? Why or why not?

[Q] How might it have sounded to the mostly rural people of 2,000 years ago, who generally lived in small, dirty places?

[Q] Even if you don't like city life, how would this city be different?

### Part 3 Apply Your Findings

Why should we think about heaven and dwell on these pictures and descriptions? Because thinking of heaven ignites a light in our souls. The brighter our view of heaven, the stronger our stride here and the looser our grip on wealth, health, hurry, and worry.

**Action Point:** Take a few minutes to write down the things you value most on earth. Next to each one, write how the corresponding thing in heaven will be so much better.

—Study by Lee Eclou, with JoHannah Reardon



## The Bridal City Will Be Beyond Imagination

Participant's Guide

Participant's Guide

# The Bridal City Will Be Beyond Imagination

*Our eternal home is a city like no other—a holy city radiant with the glory and power of God.*

*Believers must fill their minds with pictures of heaven to put life on earth in perspective. E. M. Bounds said in *Heaven: A Place, A City, a Home*, "Earth is but a pilgrim's stay, a pilgrim's journey, a pilgrim's tent. Heaven is a city, permanent, God-planned, God-built, whose foundations are as stable as God's throne." This study will help us get a picture of what that permanent home is like.*



Scripture: Revelation 21:9–21

Based On: The series builder "Heaven: Nothing Could Be Better," by Lee Eclov, [PreachingToday.com](http://PreachingToday.com).



# The Bridal City Will Be Beyond Imagination

## Participant's Guide

### Part 1 Identify the Issue

We focus on heaven not as a respite from real life, but to gain strength for real life. Richard Baxter, an English Puritan of the mid-1600s, suffered a total collapse when he was only 35. Thinking he was soon to die, he began to meditate on heaven—a practice that led to what some regard as the finest book on heaven ever written. He wrote:

For want of this recourse to heaven thy soul is as a lamp not lighted ... Shall we live in earthly cares and sorrows, as if we knew of no such thing [as heaven]? And rejoice no more in these discoveries, than if the Lord had never written it? O that our hearts were as high as our hopes, and our hopes as high as these infallible promises. (Richard Baxter, *Saints' Everlasting Rest*, Chapter XI)

We must keep heaven in mind so we will remember that earth is not our home.

### Part 2 Discover the Eternal Principles

**Teaching Point One: Our eternal home is a city like no other.**

**Teaching point Two: Our eternal home radiates the glory of God.**

**Teaching point Three: Our eternal home reflects our spiritual heritage.**

**Teaching point Four: Our eternal home reveals the measure of God's work.**

### Part 3 Apply Your Findings

Why should we think about heaven and dwell on these pictures and descriptions? Because thinking of heaven ignites a light in our souls. The brighter our view of heaven, the stronger our stride here and the looser our grip on wealth, health, hurry, and worry.

**Action Point: Take a few minutes to write down the things you value most on earth. Next to each one, write how the corresponding thing in heaven will be so much better.**

—Study by Lee Eclou, with JoHannah Reardon



## God's Presence Will Be Our Light

Leader's Guide

Leader's Guide

# God's Presence Will Be Our Light

*Nothing could be better than living in God's presence and light and with his people.*

*There is no better place than heaven. Believers often have foggy notions about why heaven is such a desirable place. This study will help clear our thinking. We must understand the great hope we have in order to live rightly on earth.*

Scripture: Revelation 21:22–27

Based On: The series builder "Heaven: Nothing Could Be Better," by Lee Eclov, [PreachingToday.com](http://PreachingToday.com).



## God's Presence Will Be Our Light

Leader's Guide

### Part 1 Identify the Issue

**Note to leader: Provide each person with the Participant's Guide, included at the end of this study.**

In Mark Twain's famous story, Miss Watson, a rather stodgy old fuddy-duddy, told Huck about heaven. This is what Huck thought about it:

She said ... she was going to live so as to go to the good place. I made up my mind I shouldn't try for it. But I never said so, because it would only make trouble and wouldn't do no good. Now she had got a start, and she went on and told me all about the good place. She said all a body would have to do there was to go around all day long with a harp and sing, forever and ever. So I didn't think much of it. But I never said so. I asked her if she reckoned Tom Sawyer would go there, and, she said, not by a considerable sight. I was glad about that, because I wanted him and me to be together. (Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*)

What a mistaken view of heaven! But too many Christians have just such a view.

**[Q]** What is wrong with Miss Watson's view of heaven?

### Part 2 Discover the Eternal Principles

**Teaching Point One: Nothing could be better than living in God's presence.**

Read Revelation 21:22. God's people have always sought a place to meet with him, though for our sinful hearts the presence of God is not safe.

The temple of God in the Old Testament was designed to protect God's people from handling his holiness carelessly; the architecture, priests, ceremonies, and holy vessels all kept the people from being consumed by the holiness of God.

Eugene Peterson says:

Sometimes I think that all religious sites should be posted with signs reading, "Beware the God." The places and occasions that people gather to attend to God are dangerous. They're glorious places and occasions, true, but they're also dangerous. Danger signs should be conspicuously placed, as they are at nuclear power stations. (Eugene Peterson, *Leap Over a Wall* [HarperCollins, 1998], p. 144)



## God's Presence Will Be Our Light

### Leader's Guide

So why should we look forward to a heaven where God is present? Because Christ will have conquered our sin, and we will have no fear of God, only comfort in his presence.

To a devout Jew, the centerpiece of heaven would be the grand temple where God's people could once again meet with him. However, the New Testament ushered in an era when we as individual Christians and as the church together are the temple of God's Spirit—he lives in us. John saw that, in heaven, God himself is the temple—we will live in him. Heaven will be home for us—natural and comfortable—and most significant to that feeling of home will be our intimate fellowship with God. Being with God Almighty and the Lamb in heaven will not be tense or awkward, but exactly right—the very thing we were made for.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10–23.

**[Q]** When have you experienced the presence of God?

**[Q]** Is the idea of living in God's presence exciting or terrifying to you? Why?

**[Q]** According to 1 Corinthians 3:11, Christ is the foundation of our faith. What does that mean?

**[Q]** How can we know whether we are building with gold, silver, and costly stones or wood, hay, and straw (v. 12)?

**[Q]** How will God's presence in heaven be different from his presence in us now (v. 16)?

**[Q]** Why is our wisdom—even about heaven—faulty? Why is knowing we will be in God's presence enough, even if we don't know a lot of details about heaven?

### Teaching Point Two: Nothing could be better than living by God's light.

Read Revelation 21:23–25. Heaven has better light by far than the brightest day here—it is brighter than the sun and does what the sun cannot do. Heaven's light nourishes heaven's citizens; we will find our health and joy in the light of God's glory. It also guards heaven's citizens; heaven's gates are always open because heaven's light is ever vigilant.

Commander Richard Byrd once spent six months in a metal hut at the South Pole. In the Antarctic winter, the sun made no appearance for four of those months. Author Philip Yancey records one of Byrd's journal writings: "I find that I crave light as a thirsting man craves water ... A funereal gloom hangs in the twilight sky. This is the period between life and death. This is the way the world will look to the last man when it dies."



## God's Presence Will Be Our Light

### Leader's Guide

Three weeks before the sun was due to return, Byrd wrote in his journal about the sun's reappearance, "I tried to imagine what it would be like, but the conception was too vast for me to grasp" (Philip Yancey, *Reaching for the Invisible God* [Zondervan, 2000]).

The light of heaven is the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb—every conversation, deed, and thought will be bathed in the light of God's presence. We must share our hope of heaven with the world, because most of the people we pass every day cannot figure out where God is. Read Isaiah 60:1–3.

- [Q] Why are people afraid of the dark?
- [Q] How does earthly light help us to understand God as light? How does it fail to tell us what God is like?
- [Q] In what ways is the earth always in darkness, even when there is plenty of physical light?
- [Q] Besides illumination, what does light represent in these Scripture passages?
- [Q] What would draw others to God's light (Isaiah 60:3)?

### Teaching Point Three: Nothing could be better than living with God's people in heaven.

Read Revelation 21:26–27. Heaven is the culmination of when the scattered sons and daughters of Israel will come to their Messiah, Jesus. But we are also Israel's sons and daughters, adopted into the chosen people when we put our faith in Israel's Messiah. Heaven is the homecoming of all God's people—but of only God's people. It will be filled with the display of every nation's glory and honor; heaven won't be homogenous!

Read Isaiah 60:3–7. Somehow, through the creative genius of God, every nation of the world will be represented in heaven, and will bring their God-given treasures and distinctions. Read Isaiah 60:11.

Randy Alcorn says:

Consider what it will be like to see the Masai of Kenya, the Dinka of Sudan, the Hmong, Athabaskans, Tibetans, Aucans, Icelanders, Macedonians, Moldovans, Moroccans, and Peruvians. Hundreds of nations, thousands of people groups, will gather to worship Christ. And many national and cultural distinctives, untouched by sin, will continue to the glory of God.

[Isaiah 60:11] gives us biblical basis to suppose that the best culture, history, art, music, and the languages of the old Earth will be redeemed, purified, and carried over to the New Earth. (Randy Alcorn, *Heaven* [Tyndale, 2004], pp. 366–367)



## God's Presence Will Be Our Light

### Leader's Guide

Greatest among all the treasures the nations will bring into the holy city will be their worship of God.

**[Q]** What is the largest gathering of like-minded people you've been a part of? If it was a positive experience, what made it so?

**[Q]** How does that experience compare to gathering with the nations to worship Christ? Name similarities and differences.

**[Q]** What does this gathering of nations tell us about God's character and what he values?

### Optional Activity:

**Purpose:** *To help us get a glimpse of what heaven's unity will be like.*

**Activity:** *Form groups of three or four. Provide each group with a magazine that contains photos of people. One such as National Geographic would be ideal. Ask each group to find at least three photos of people who are quite different from each other. Speculate how they would be unified as believers in Christ in heaven.*

## Part 3 Apply Your Findings

We're told these wonderful things about heaven so that we do not lose heart; when God seems distant, we can remember that there will be a day when God will be among us.

We are also told these things so we might be lights here in this world, allowing our righteousness to shine through as a witness for Christ.

Finally, we are told these things so that we will remember how great our God and Savior is and worship him now as we should.

**Action Point:** **Of the three sentences above, which one do you need the most help with? Share your answers with the group and close praying for each other in the area mentioned.**

—Study by Lee Eclou, with JoHannah Reardon



## God's Presence Will Be Our Light

Participant's Guide

Participant's Guide

# God's Presence Will Be Our Light

*Nothing could be better than living in God's presence and light and with his people.*

*There is no better place than heaven. Believers often have foggy notions about why heaven is such a desirable place. This study will help clear our thinking. We must understand the great hope we have in order to live rightly on earth.*

Scripture: Revelation 21:22–27

Based On: The series builder "Heaven: Nothing Could Be Better," by Lee Eclov, [PreachingToday.com](http://PreachingToday.com).



## God's Presence Will Be Our Light

### Participant's Guide

### Part 1 Identify the Issue

In Mark Twain's famous story, Miss Watson, a rather stodgy old fuddy-duddy, told Huck about heaven. This is what Huck thought about it:

She said ... she was going to live so as to go to the good place. I made up my mind I shouldn't try for it. But I never said so, because it would only make trouble and wouldn't do no good. Now she had got a start, and she went on and told me all about the good place. She said all a body would have to do there was to go around all day long with a harp and sing, forever and ever. So I didn't think much of it. But I never said so. I asked her if she reckoned Tom Sawyer would go there, and, she said, not by a considerable sight. I was glad about that, because I wanted him and me to be together. (Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*)

What a mistaken view of heaven! But too many Christians have just such a view.

### Part 2 Discover the Eternal Principles

**Teaching Point One: Nothing could be better than living in God's presence.**

**Teaching point Two: Nothing could be better than living by God's light.**

**Teaching point Three: Nothing could be better than living with God's people in heaven.**

### Part 3 Apply Your Findings

We're told these wonderful things about heaven so that we do not lose heart; when God seems distant, we can remember that there will be a day when God will be among us.

We are also told these things so we might be lights here in this world, allowing our righteousness to shine through as a witness for Christ.

Finally, we are told these things so that we will remember how great our God and Savior is and worship him now as we should.

**Action Point: Of the three sentences above, which one do you need the most help with? Share your answers with the group and close praying for each other in the area mentioned.**

—Study by Lee Eclov, with JoHannah Reardon



## Heaven Will Be a Garden of Life

Leader's Guide

Leader's Guide

# Heaven Will Be a Garden of Life

*The throne of God and the Lamb make heaven the garden of life and perfect place of service it is.*

*We need to understand the effect of the centrality of God's throne on the setting of heaven. Believers must understand that heaven will not be an interminable church service; rather, heaven will be a place of endless life and excitement.*

Scripture: Revelation 22:1–5

Based On: The series builder "Heaven: Nothing Could Be Better," by Lee Eclov, [PreachingToday.com](http://PreachingToday.com).



# Heaven Will Be a Garden of Life

Leader's Guide

## Part 1 Identify the Issue

**Note to leader: Provide each person with the Participant's Guide, included at the end of this study.**

The Bible tells us a lot more about heaven than we may realize, and we're told these wonderful things so we will not hold so tightly to this counterfeit world and will persevere now to gain that future reward.

In Revelation 22:1–5, the phrase, “the throne of God and of the Lamb,” is the controlling phrase of these verses; it makes clear that God's throne is what makes heaven heaven.

**[Q]** Why would “the throne of God and of the Lamb” be what defines heaven? What does that tell you about heaven?

## Part 2 Discover the Eternal Principles

### Teaching Point One: God's throne makes heaven a garden of life.

Read Revelation 22:1–3. Heaven is, in some respects, much like the Garden of Eden, which had both a river and a tree of life (Gen. 2:10 and 3:22). And in Hebrew, heaven is called the Garden of Eden.

The difference is that this new Eden's life flows from the throne of God and the Lamb. The river of the water of life is the Spirit of God—holy water in which we've been baptized and which flows from Jesus himself. The heavenly fruit gets its life from the river that flows from the throne of God and the Lamb, and it is the fruit of the Spirit.

The Harry & David company offers a deluxe Fruit-of-the-Month club: “top-quality fruit—pampered on the tree, picked at its peak—wholesome, appealing, brimming with freshness and flavor.” Some featured fruits are Springtime Royal Pears, Sunrise Papayas, and Fresh Dark Sweet Cherries. As sweet as these fruits are, they cannot match the life-giving sweetness of the fruit of the Spirit.

The leaves of the tree of life have a medicinal value, reversing the curse on the nations. Heaven will be even better than Eden because the river, flowing from Christ, will carry liquefied Life, and the tree will eternally feed us with the fruit of the Spirit. Read about this fruit in Galatians 5:22–23.



## Heaven Will Be a Garden of Life

### Leader's Guide

- [Q] What about this fruit makes it clear that it comes completely from God?
- [Q] How is this fruit available now?
- [Q] What will make it so much more attainable in heaven?
- [Q] Since those of us who have trusted in Christ have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, how will God's presence be different in heaven?
- [Q] How do you picture the Garden of Eden? In what ways will heaven be even better?

### Teaching Point Two: God's throne makes heaven the perfect place to work.

We've overdone the idea of heaven as a place of rest. Mark Twain, who never claimed to be a Christian, nonetheless wrote a lot about heaven. In his story *Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven*, the heavenly guide says:

Eternal Rest sounds comforting in the pulpit ... Well, you try it once, and see how heavy time will hang on your hands. Why, Stormfield, a man like you, that had been active and stirring all his life, would go mad in six months in heaven where he hadn't anything to do. Heaven is the very last place to come to rest in—and don't you be afraid to bet on that!

The Christian writer Joe Bayly wrote a story about heaven. In it he writes of arriving in heaven:

I'll say, "Hello, Lord. I'm tired."

And he'll say, "Rest, because I have work for you to do."

"Rest?"

"Yes, remember that I myself rested on the seventh day of creation."

"And work?"

"Of course. Did you think heaven would be an eternal Sunday afternoon nap? My people serve me in heaven. I have work for you to do."

"Keeping all the gold polished?"

"Ruling angels. Managing the universe for me. Some day, being responsible for whole cities."



## Heaven Will Be a Garden of Life

### Leader's Guide

Read Revelation 22:3b–5. The Greek word John chose here for *serve* is a word used only for the service of God, like the service of priests.

There are at least four reasons why heaven will be the perfect place to work:

1. We will always see the Lord's face, and thus will have perfect motivation.
2. His name will be on our foreheads forever, reminding all who see us of God's delight in us.
3. We will never work in darkness.
4. We will reign for ever and ever.

**[Q]** What kind of work do you enjoy most? Why?

**[Q]** How might that kind of work be much more fulfilling in heaven than it is here?

**[Q]** What about work don't you like? Why will that not be a problem in heaven?

**[Q]** What kind of work would you most like to try, but cannot or are afraid to? How might such work be possible in heaven?

### Optional Activity:

**Purpose:** *To help us think about how meaningful work will be in heaven.*

**Activity:** *Ask the group to write down the things they would do if they had the time, money, energy, and resources. Then ask them to choose one and explain why they would like to do that. As a group, brainstorm how that might become meaningful work in heaven.*

## Part 3 Apply Your Findings

In heaven, our souls will be forever at rest, but we will also be forever serving the King in the perfect place to work. We must put away forever the silly ideas of heaven as an interminable church service. Heaven will not be boring or predictable; rather, we will find an endless variety of ways to serve our great Lord upon his throne.

Jack Hayford, pastor of The Church on the Way in California, tells this story:



## Heaven Will Be a Garden of Life

Leader's Guide

It was a deeply sobering day when I came to Carl's room in the hospital, knowing there were only a matter of hours to live. And as I sat beside the bed, I said, "Carl, how are you feeling?"

A man of deep faith and commitment to Jesus Christ, and a very experienced and highly respected lighting director at CBS, he looked at me, his eyes misted slightly, and he said, "Pastor Jack, you know when you're in my business, it's the combination of lights, the skill at blending things together in order to create special effects—that's what this job is about."

He said, "This morning I woke up and in the quiet of my heart, Jesus spoke to me and he said, 'Carl, how would you like to direct a sunset?'"<sup>1</sup>

**Action Point:** As you go about your work this week, imagine what life would be like with all of the fulfillment and satisfaction of your work and none of the frustrations. Pray that this vision of heaven will give you new courage and energy in your daily tasks.

—Study by Lee Eclov, with JoHannah Reardon

<sup>1</sup> From the CD *Heaven* in the Gaither Gospel Series, track 14.



## Heaven Will Be a Garden of Life

Participant's Guide

Participant's Guide

# Heaven Will Be a Garden of Life

*The throne of God and the Lamb make heaven the garden of life and perfect place of service it is.*

*We need to understand the effect of the centrality of God's throne on the setting of heaven. Believers must understand that heaven will not be an interminable church service; rather, heaven will be a place of endless life and excitement.*

Scripture: Revelation 22:1–5

Based On: The series builder "Heaven: Nothing Could Be Better," by Lee Eclov, [PreachingToday.com](http://PreachingToday.com).



## Heaven Will Be a Garden of Life

### Participant's Guide

### Part 1 Identify the Issue

The Bible tells us a lot more about heaven than we may realize, and we're told these wonderful things so we will not hold so tightly to this counterfeit world and will persevere now to gain that future reward.

In Revelation 22:1–5, the phrase, “the throne of God and of the Lamb,” is the controlling phrase of these verses; it makes clear that God's throne is what makes heaven heaven.

### Part 2 Discover the Eternal Principles

**Teaching Point One: God's throne makes heaven a garden of life.**

**Teaching point Two: God's throne makes heaven the perfect place to work.**

### Part 3 Apply Your Findings

In heaven, our souls will be forever at rest, but we will also be forever serving the King in the perfect place to work. We must put away forever the silly ideas of heaven as an interminable church service. Heaven will not be boring or predictable; rather, we will find an endless variety of ways to serve our great Lord upon his throne.

Jack Hayford, pastor of The Church on the Way in California, tells this story:

It was a deeply sobering day when I came to Carl's room in the hospital, knowing there were only a matter of hours to live. And as I sat beside the bed, I said, “Carl, how are you feeling?”

A man of deep faith and commitment to Jesus Christ, and a very experienced and highly respected lighting director at CBS, he looked at me, his eyes misted slightly, and he said, “Pastor Jack, you know when you're in my business, it's the combination of lights, the skill at blending things together in order to create special effects—that's what this job is about.”



## Heaven Will Be a Garden of Life

### Participant's Guide

He said, “This morning I woke up and in the quiet of my heart, Jesus spoke to me and he said, ‘Carl, how would you like to direct a sunset?’”<sup>1</sup>

**Action Point:** As you go about your work this week, imagine what life would be like with all of the fulfillment and satisfaction of your work and none of the frustrations. Pray that this vision of heaven will give you new courage and energy in your daily tasks.

—Study by Lee Eclov, with JoHannah Reardon

<sup>1</sup> From the CD *Heaven* in the Gaither Gospel Series, track 14.



## Jesus Promised Us He Would Come Soon

Leader's Guide

Leader's Guide

# Jesus Promised Us He Would Come Soon

*The last recorded words of Jesus, "I am coming soon!" are both a solemn warning and a soul-sustaining promise.*

*The purpose of this study is to warn those who do not believe in Christ—and to encourage those who do—about the Lord's impending return. Jesus will return in an instant, and in an instant we will face eternal life or eternal death.*



Scripture: Revelation 22:6–21

Based On: The series builder "Heaven: Nothing Could Be Better," by Lee Eclov, [PreachingToday.com](http://PreachingToday.com).



# Jesus Promised Us He Would Come Soon

Leader's Guide

## Part 1 Identify the Issue

**Note to leader: Provide each person with the Participant's Guide, included at the end of this study.**

Time magazine featured an article in their May 2, 2005, issue entitled, "How to Get Out Alive: What the science of evacuation reveals about how humans behave in the worst of times." The article explained what researchers have learned from survivors of the attack on the World Trade Center. Those who made it out waited for an average of six minutes before evacuating. Some lingered as long as half an hour.

What did they do while they waited? Milled around. Called relatives. "About 1,000 took the time to shut down their computers ... at least 70% of survivors spoke with other people before trying to leave."

Less than half the survivors knew there were three stairwells in their building, and less than half had ever entered one of those stairwells. One investigator said, "I found the lack of preparedness shocking."

One woman, Elia Zedeño, who was on the 73rd floor of Tower 1, heard a booming explosion and felt the building actually lurch to the south, as if it might topple. You might expect that her next instinct would be to flee. But she had the opposite reaction.

"What I really wanted was for someone to scream back, 'Everything is O.K.! Don't worry. It's in your head.'" Luckily, at least one of Zedeño's colleagues responded differently. "The answer I got was another co-worker screaming, 'Get out of the building!'" she remembers now.

Almost four years later, she still thinks about that command. "My question is, *What would I have done if the person had said nothing?*" (Amanda Ripley, "How to Get Out Alive: What the science of evacuation reveals about how humans behave in the worst of times," Time, 5-2-2005, p. 59).

The Book of Revelation says this world will end suddenly and violently; we must be prepared for it beforehand. The word *soon* appears four times in Revelation 22:6–21, and the Greek word John chose can mean either *soon* or *quickly*.

The last recorded words of Jesus, "I am coming soon!" are both a solemn warning and a soul-sustaining promise.

**[Q]** Can we still count on Jesus' promise to come soon when it has been 2,000 years? Why do you think he said he was coming soon when he knew it would be a long time?



# Jesus Promised Us He Would Come Soon

Leader's Guide

## Part 2 Discover the Eternal Principles

### Teaching Point One: Jesus' last words are a solemn warning.

Read Revelation 22:10–15. John is clear that this is an urgent message that must be heeded. When Jesus comes back, it will be too late to change. Those who refuse to believe that Jesus is Lord, that Scripture is true, that sin must be judged, and who love and practice falsehood will be condemned to hell.

All of heaven's citizens have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb; we too must outfit ourselves in the purity of Christ by asking him to forgive our sins. God offers each of us the free gift of eternal life; if we do not ask for it, we will die.

Randy Alcorn relates the story of Ruthanna Metzgar, a professional singer:

Several years ago, she was asked to sing at the wedding of a very wealthy man. According to the invitation, the reception would be held on the top two floors of Seattle's Columbia Tower, the Northwest's tallest skyscraper. She and her husband, Roy, were excited about attending. At the reception, waiters in tuxedos offered luscious hors d'oeuvres and exotic beverages. The bride and groom approached a beautiful glass and brass staircase that led to the top floor. Someone ceremoniously cut a satin ribbon draped across the bottom of the stairs. They announced the wedding feast was about to begin. Bride and groom ascended the stairs, followed by their guests.

At the top of the stairs, a maitre d' with a bound book greeted the guests outside the doors. "May I have your name, please?"

"I am Ruthanna Metzgar and this is my husband, Roy."

He searched the Ms. "I'm not finding it. Would you spell it please?"

Ruthanna spelled her name slowly. After searching the book, the maitre d' looked up and said, "I'm sorry, but your name isn't here."

"There must be some mistake," Ruthanna replied. "I'm the singer. I sang for this wedding!"

The gentleman answered, "It doesn't matter who you are or what you did. Without your name in the book you cannot attend the banquet." He motioned to a waiter and said, "Show these people to the service elevator, please."



## Jesus Promised Us He Would Come Soon

### Leader's Guide

The Metzgars followed the waiter past beautifully decorated tables laden with shrimp, whole smoked salmon, and magnificent, carved ice sculptures. Adjacent to the banquet area, an orchestra was preparing to perform, the musicians all dressed in dazzling white tuxedos. The waiter led Ruthanna and Roy to the service elevator, ushered them in, and pushed G for the parking garage.

After locating their car and driving several miles in silence, Roy reached over and put his hand on Ruthanna's arm. "Sweetheart, what happened?"

"When the invitation arrived, I was busy," Ruthanna replied. "I never bothered to RSVP. Besides, I was the singer. Surely I could go to the reception without returning the RSVP!" Ruthanna started to weep—not only because she had missed the most lavish banquet she'd ever been invited to, but also because she suddenly had a small taste of what it will be like someday for people as they stand before Christ and find their names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life. (Randy Alcorn, *Heaven* [Tyndale, 2004], pp. 31–32)

**[Q]** According to verse 11, how will our present behavior affect our readiness to meet Christ when he returns for us?

**[Q]** What do you think the reward will be for (v. 12)?

**[Q]** How can we wash our robes and have the right to the tree of life (v. 14)?

**Leader's Note: Through what Christ has done on the cross for us we have the privilege of entering the gates (see verses 16 and 17).**

**[Q]** If Christ is our way through the gates of heaven, then why does Christ list deeds that will keep people out (v. 15)?

**Leader's Note: We enter heaven through what Christ has done for us, which transforms our attitudes and behaviors.**

**Teaching Point Two: Jesus' last words are a welcome promise.**

Read Revelation 22:6–7 and 16. Jesus reminds us who he is and promises that the dawn of a new, eternal day is coming very soon.

C. S. Lewis once said, "When the author walks on to the stage, the play is over." We gain access to heaven through faith in Christ, but, while we wait, we must live out that faith by being obedient to our Lord.



## Jesus Promised Us He Would Come Soon

### Leader's Guide

Obedience to the Lord looks like repenting when impurity taints our lives, and enduring suffering patiently and righteously till Jesus comes back.

What would it mean for you to live, not just believing that Jesus could come back today but praying that he would?

Robby Robins was an Air Force pilot during the first Iraq war. After his 300th mission he was surprised to be given permission to immediately pull his crew together and fly his plane home. They flew across the ocean to Massachusetts and then had a long drive to western Pennsylvania. They drove all night, and when his buddies dropped him off at his driveway just after sun up, there was a big banner across the garage—“Welcome Home Dad!”

How did they know? No one had called, and the crew themselves hadn't expected to leave so quickly. Robins relates, “When I walked into the house, the kids, about half dressed for school, screamed, ‘Daddy!’” Susan came running down the hall—she looked terrific—hair fixed, make-up on, and a crisp yellow dress. “How did you know?” I asked.

“I didn't,” she answered through tears of joy. “Once we knew the war was over, we knew you'd be home one of these days. We knew you'd try to surprise us, so we were ready every day.”

**[Q]** How can we live with expectancy for Christ's return?

**[Q]** In what ways should our lives be different because we are waiting for him?

**[Q]** How does the reassurance of Christ's return encourage you?

**[Q]** What kind of perspective does his return give to your daily life and what you count important?

### Optional Activity:

**Purpose:** *To help us evaluate our lives in light of Christ's return.*

**Activity:** *Write down all the things about your life that you think Christ will delight in when he returns. Then write down things you think will sadden him about the way you are living. Pick one thing from each list to share with the group. Explain why you think they will delight or sadden him.*



## Jesus Promised Us He Would Come Soon

Leader's Guide

### Part 3 Apply Your Findings

C. S. Lewis said, “At present we are on the outside of the world, the wrong side of the door. We discern the freshness and purity of morning, but they do not make us fresh and pure. We cannot mingle with the splendors we see. But all of the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumor that it will not always be so. Some day, God willing, we shall get in.”

While we wait, let us persevere when things get tough, keep our hearts clean, and join together in saying, “Come, Lord Jesus—come!”

**Action Point:** While looking at Revelation 22, close in group prayer, praising God for the joys awaiting us in heaven.

—Study by Lee Eclov, with JoHannah Reardon



## Jesus Promised Us He Would Come Soon

Participant's Guide

Participant's Guide

# Jesus Promised Us He Would Come Soon

*The last recorded words of Jesus, "I am coming soon!" are both a solemn warning and a soul-sustaining promise.*

*The purpose of this study is to warn those who do not believe in Christ—and to encourage those who do—about the Lord's impending return. Jesus will return in an instant, and in an instant we will face eternal life or eternal death.*



Scripture: Revelation 22:6–21

Based On: The series builder "Heaven: Nothing Could Be Better," by Lee Eclov, [PreachingToday.com](http://PreachingToday.com).



## Jesus Promised Us He Would Come Soon

Participant's Guide

### Part 1 Identify the Issue

The Book of Revelation says this world will end suddenly and violently; we must be prepared for it beforehand. The word *soon* appears four times in Revelation 22:6–21, and the Greek word John chose can mean either *soon* or *quickly*.

The last recorded words of Jesus, “I am coming soon!” are both a solemn warning and a soul-sustaining promise.

### Part 2 Discover the Eternal Principles

**Teaching Point One: Jesus’ last words are a solemn warning.**

**Teaching point Two: Jesus’ last words are a welcome promise.**

### Part 3 Apply Your Findings

C. S. Lewis said, “At present we are on the outside of the world, the wrong side of the door. We discern the freshness and purity of morning, but they do not make us fresh and pure. We cannot mingle with the splendors we see. But all of the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumor that it will not always be so. Some day, God willing, we shall get in.”

While we wait, let us persevere when things get tough, keep our hearts clean, and join together in saying, “Come, Lord Jesus—come!”

**Action Point: While looking at Revelation 22, close in group prayer, praising God for the joys awaiting us in heaven.**

—Study by Lee Eclou, with JoHannah Reardon

