

# Community Group Homework Sheet



Our weekly homework is meant to help you to go deeper into the passage/topic from Sunday, and to prepare you for the discussion at your Community Group. Please take a few minutes to respond to each of the questions.

## **Quick Review: John 13:36-14:7**

Looking back at your notes from this Sunday's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## **My Life:**

Blank Canvas got some of us thinking and talking about heaven last week. Our passage this week dealt with the topic head on, providing us an opportunity to keep the discussion (and learning) moving. As a group, [watch this clip](#), (produced by Kyle Nicholson featuring Matt Brubaker).<sup>1</sup>

1. Take a minute and write out some of your ideas of what heaven is like. If you feel your ideas have been largely shaped by Scripture, also include examples of wrong ideas you formerly held about and the afterlife. Also include any questions you still have. Share what you have with your group.

## **Digging Deeper:**

Many have criticized the "pie in the sky" hope of heaven that many Christians, especially in previous generations, have lived by. To be fair, the biblical hope of heaven is a bit more sophisticated than that. The Biblical hope of a new heaven and a new earth focuses on God's plan to restore the world from its corrupt, fallen state.

1. Read over the following versus. Look for and write down any new information about heaven, or anything that contradicts what you previously thought about heaven and eternity.

**Philippians 1:21–26** 21 For to me to live is Christ, and **to die is gain**. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is **to depart and be with Christ**, for that is far better. 24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

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<sup>1</sup> While the video was humorous at times, our goal wasn't to make fun of anyone. Rather, we had hoped to capture some common views on heaven.

**John 17:24** Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

**Matthew 25:31–34** “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. . . 41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13–14** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

**2 Corinthians 4:17–5:10** For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. 5:1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that **we would be further clothed**, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

2. At its most basic, heaven is the dwelling place of God. It is where He rules, dwells, and commands His angels. It is a place where His will is done completely, and His kingdom is fully manifest. Understanding this to be the case, what does the following passage teach us about what the world will be like when all is made new in the new heaven and earth?

**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 the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the **dwelling place of God** is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

3. What is the difference between heaven as it is now, and the way it will be in the new heaven and new earth?
4. Christ used knowledge of future events as a means to try to comfort His disciples now. What are some ways that our connection to the future life in Christ bring us peace now?

**John 14:1-4** 1 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going.”

### **Taking it Home:**

1. Looking back at this week’s teaching and study, what’s most important for you to remember and why?