

## FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS

### DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

Share your story of how you accepted God's gift of eternal life, when your name was written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

### GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

Last week Pastor Brian reminded us of a long rope stretched through the church representing eternity. Our current life is just one tiny piece of it. How does this perspective impact the way you view the hardships of this life? Or the joys?

### PRACTICING PRAYER:

Pastor Brian said in the New Jerusalem "the presence of God fills the whole place." Take a minute to think about that and pray thanking God for His Spirit filling you now and a future hope of His presence filling our space in a way we can't even imagine!

### MEMORY VERSE:

*Jesus said to him,  
"I am the way,  
and the truth,  
and the life.  
No one comes to the Father  
except through me."*

John 14:6, ESV

### DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES:

Spend some time confessing your struggles and sins to God.

Pray for strength to keep fighting against these things.

Thank God for an eternity where we will have victory over and rest from these struggles.



To be a Christ centered community helping people faithfully follow Jesus both locally and globally.

## Leader Resource Guide

Date: May 1, 2022

*Our Final Home*



## SERMON NOTES

*It is a renewed, restored, recreated, redeemed, resurrected planet earth.*

*It is not so much us going up to Him in a different realm or state, or dimension or place, but it is Him coming down to us and dwelling visibly, physically, constantly with us in our resurrected bodies, in a restored paradise that was lost at the fall. From this place He will rule and reign forever, and we will joyfully live under His good and perfect leadership and we will rule and reign with Him as He chooses. And the crown jewel of this restored paradise on a renewed planet earth will be a magnificent city of enormous proportions called the New Jerusalem.*

### EVIDENCE:

The New Jerusalem: Literal or Metaphorical? Not so fast: Psalm 22.

### EXPECTATIONS OF OUR FINAL HOME: THE NEW EARTH:

1. P\_\_\_\_\_, and R\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The P\_\_\_\_\_. The A\_\_\_\_\_. The T\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Psalm 16:11; Psalm 36:5-9. The B\_\_\_\_\_.

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### THE PEOPLE (What will we be like?).

**WHO?** John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:27; 7:9-10 & 13-17

### WHAT?

**1 THING DIFFERENT:** John 3:1-3, 1 Corinthians 15:50-54

### 3 THINGS THE SAME

**1 THING THE SAME AND DIFFERENT:** 1 Corinthians 15:42-49; Philippians 3:20-21; Acts 1:11

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

When you think of heaven, what comes to mind? Where do you think those ideas came from? (Scripture, books, tv, movies, etc...) How may those thoughts have changed over the years?

Do you agree with Brian that heaven is an important topic to study? Why or why not?

## CHRIST CENTERED DISCUSSION:

*What will it be like?*

1. Pastor Brian presented a long description of what he believes the Bible teaches about heaven. Try to reproduce as much of the description as you can. What in the description stood out most to you?  
*It is a renewed, restored, recreated, redeemed, resurrected planet earth. It is not so much us going up to Him in a different realm or state, or dimension or place, but it is Him coming down to us and dwelling visibly, physically, constantly with us in our resurrected bodies, in a restored paradise that was lost at the fall. From this place He will rule and reign forever, and we will joyfully live under His good and perfect leadership and we will rule and reign with Him as He chooses. And the crown jewel of this restored paradise on a renewed planet earth will be a magnificent city of enormous proportions called the New Jerusalem.*
2. Pastor Brian shared several places in Hebrews that talk about this new heavenly city (Hebrews 11:10, 13-16; 12:18-24; 13:12-14). What do you learn about about the New Jerusalem? What do you learn about Abraham (11:10) and all those redeemed and forgiven who are awaiting Jesus' final return? How does their anticipation of this city affect how they lived their present lives? How might it affect yours?

*What will we be like?*

3. Who will be the inhabitants of heaven? How can someone be assured of going to heaven when they die? See John 14:6; Acts 4:12 + Revelation 20:15.  
*This is the point in the sermon when Pastor Brian shared the gospel. This will give you opportunity to confirm, affirm, or invite members in your group into a relationship of salvation with Jesus. Be prepared with your own gospel presentation. If you need help: by admitting our sinful state that separates us from a life with God, that our sin requires a ransom to be paid, and trusting that Jesus paid that ransom we needed to secure for us a right standing with God and eternity spent together in with him in His eternal home.*
4. Review the 5 things Pastor Brian talked about in relation to what we will be like: one thing that will be different, three things that will be the same, and one thing that will be both the same and different. Pick one and investigate the intricacies further. Which of those is most thought-provoking?  
*It's good to review the points generally and see what sticks out to people. See where the conversation goes and follow it as you are able and time permits.*
5. Discuss I John 3:1-3 and I Corinthians 15:50-54. What comfort and hope do you find in these verses? How does Jesus' resurrection relate to our comfort and hope?
6. What do you imagine an eternity of being "not able to sin" will be like?  
*At creation, we were able to sin.  
As a result of the fall, we are now not able to not sin  
As redeemed, glorified people, we have the ability to not sin.  
In our complete and final restoration, we will not be able to sin.*
7. Write out a prayer of thanks to the Lord for what the hope of the new body and new nature of believers will have in heaven means to you. Read these prayers to close your Life Group meeting.