

Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of December 18 - 24, 2022

Main Thought and Scriptures:

Jesus enables us to live a new life on earth. This is an amazing gift from God. However, His greatest gift to us is not temporary but eternal. Even more important than a new life on earth is eternal life in heaven. When Jesus rose from the dead, He left behind His grave wraps, ascended to heaven, and was clothed in glory. Through Christ, we'll also leave behind our burial wraps and live forever with Him in Heaven. In John 14:1-6, Jesus encouraged His disciples with the promise of eternal life:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ²My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.’ ⁵Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ ⁶Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” (John 14:1-6 NIV)

Jesus calls us to believe in Him. (v. 1)

- In times of trouble, we tend only to see the trouble and get consumed with the affairs and adversities of life.
- Seasons of adversity shift our attention from the temporal to the eternal, causing us to long for heaven.
- In these times, Jesus said to believe in Him.

Jesus has prepared a place in heaven for those who believe in Him. (v. 2)

- Jesus has prepared many rooms (another translation: mansions) in heaven for us.
- While Jesus prepares a place for many in heaven, He desires a personal relationship with us on earth.
- The reality of a home in heaven brings us hope on earth.

Being in heaven means also being with Him. (v. 3)

- Heaven is about being in God’s presence for eternity. Jesus says He will bring us to Himself.

We have access to heaven only through Jesus. (v. 4-6)

- The only way to heaven is to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior because He alone came to save the world from sin and death on the cross.
- Christmas is about Jesus, God’s gift to us. Our choice to begin a relationship with Him is our gift to God.

Discussion Questions:

(Break into groups of 3-4 to discuss.)

- Share what God is highlighting to you from the weekend sermon, the main thought, and the scriptures above.
- Share about a time when the promise of eternal life helped you to persevere through a challenging situation. What did you learn about God and your faith because of it? Or share about a current situation where the promise of eternal life can help you to persevere.
- Who is one person whom God has placed on your heart to share the Gospel with? How can the promise of eternal life help them?

Prayer:

- Pray for one another to find hope in the promise of eternal life through current life circumstances.
- Pray that those you are reaching will receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and begin their discipleship journey.