



Nowhere does the Bible speak of going to heaven, but from start to finish the Bible tells the story of heaven coming. It is God's grand redemption plan from ages past, and it changes how we deal with the present when we know that Home is Coming!

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Rick began by reminding us that some people feel that a study of heaven isn't practical. What are some reasons people might think that today and how does that stand in contrast with what the first followers of Christ would have thought?

2 OUR FUTURE HOME... is a present help. *The consistent New Testament witness is that what's coming should affect what's happening.* **Read Colossians 3:1-2, 5, 10, and 17.** In what ways do these verses remind us that thinking about heaven should impact the way we live today? What teachings of Jesus confirm the idea that "then" impacts "now"?

3 HEAVEN... helps us line up! *Being heavenly-minded can keep us from winding up in a ditch.* Peter reminds us to "Honor God while you live as strangers here on earth" (**1 Peter 1:17, CEV**). How does being heavenly-minded help you honor God now as it relates to wealth, people, and morality (share some specific examples of how being heavenly-minded in these areas will produce some *strange views*)?

4 Rick pointed out that "It takes great intentionality to keep our moral code in line with the values of the kingdom of God." How have you experienced the struggle to live by the ethics of the kingdom? Follow up: **Read Colossians 3:6-10.** What is something you

still need to "get rid of"? What are some intentional steps you can take today to do so?

5 HEAVEN... helps us chill out! *Heaven helps us recognize the trivial stuff for what it really is. It also helps us realize that most of life is trivial stuff.* How have you experienced that to be true in your life recently? Follow up: **Read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.** How many of the things that have been upsetting you lately could pass the eternity test? How can focusing on heaven help you change your mind-set?

6 HEAVEN... helps us hang on! *Believing that the next life will be good does not mean pretending that this life isn't hard.* Why is it important to face the truth about the difficulties of our current reality while retaining faith in our future victory? Is that easy or hard for you? Follow up: How do scriptures like **Romans 8:18** and **2 Timothy 4:7-8** encourage you to hang on when life gets hard? What other scriptures help you?

7 Rick closed by reminding us that "Our future home is a present help, and our present race is a future win!" With that in mind, share at least one practical way that thinking of "then" is doing you a lot of good right "now". Close in prayer by asking God to help you stay aligned, remain calm, and to finish strong.

