



## 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 “As followers of Jesus we long for our place, the new earth that will be our home when Jesus returns. But that means we must live now as a displaced people.” **Read Hebrews 11:13-16 and Philippians 3:20.** What stands out to you from these scriptures in regards to how those before us lived as a “displaced people”? Follow up: How has this series encouraged you to live now while you wait for your new home to come?

**2 WHO WE ARE... We must maintain dual citizenship.** We used to be exiles from God; now we are exiles for God. **Read 1 Peter 1:1,17; 2:11-12.** What is significant about how scripture connects teachings on heaven and Jesus' return with calls to holiness and goodness? Follow up: In what ways are we often tempted to become “nationalized” and what intentional steps have you taken to remain faithful to God?

**3 WHAT WE DO... Stay prayerful.** Prayer is the alien's native language. **Read 1 Peter 4:7.** How has the gift of prayer been an encouragement and resource in your journey with God? **Follow up:** Jesus taught his first followers to pray “up there, down here” prayers. **Read Matthew 6:10.** Why is praying these types of prayers so important? Take some time as a group praying for some specific areas where a move of God is most needed.

**4 WHAT WE DO... Remain graceful.** The enemy wants us to pick sides, start fighting, and care more about hating than healing. **Read 1 Peter 4:8.** Why is loving

people deeply so vital for the life of the church and our witness to the world? How have you seen this type of love displayed in our community recently? **Follow up:** Grace requires proximity. **Read 1 Peter 4:9.** Why is practicing hospitality so important?

**5 WHAT WE DO... Be useful.** Every alien is a minister; every pilgrim is a priest. Rick said, “My faithfulness to Jesus should not depend on knowing when he will return, but in knowing what will matter most to him when he does. Did we love God by loving our neighbor?” Why is that so important and what often gets in the way from making it happen? **Follow up: Read 1 Peter 4:10-11.** What are some tangible ways we can use the gifts God has given each of us to bless this world?

**6 WHY IT MATTERS... We must model home away from home.** When the days are the darkest the church has the opportunity to shine the brightest. How have you experienced this to be true in your lifetime? Follow up: In what practical ways can we do a better job today (as a church) showing the world what tomorrow will look like (an earth filled with diversity and love)?

**7** As you reflect on this series what is one key thing you learned and what next step do you need to take while you wait/long for your new home to come?

