

In the introduction of the book *Heaven* on page xx he gives an analogy of seeing the shore. It is my prayer that your group will see the shore of Heaven more clearly as a result of this Heaven series and be encouraged and strengthened as they go through this life looking forward to their eternal destiny.

Continue to get your group to read through all of Revelations 21 & 22 multiple times throughout these coming weeks as we are studying.

Memory Verse: Revelation 21:2

"I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband."

Take some time to reflect on the words of our memory verse this week!

Weekly Reading:

Encourage each of your group members to read a passage each day and write down what they learn about God and or Heaven from the verses. This will allow the work of the Holy Spirit to reveal truth throughout this study.

Day 1	1 Corinthians 2:6-16
Day 2	Genesis 1:1-31
Day 3	Genesis 2:1-14
Day 4	Genesis 2:15-25
Day 5	2 Peter 3

Study Questions:

1. Many of us think of places we have visited to imagine Heaven. When you think of Heaven, what do you imagine it to be like? (Read the story of creation found in Genesis 1 & 2 to imagine the New Earth)

Allow people a chance to use their imagination about heaven (see the book *Heaven* pages 16-19 for insight about the value of using our imagination). Help them to read through Genesis 1 & 2 slowly and picking out what we learn about the earth and understand how God made the earth and it was good. Ask: "If the things God made he saw were good about the earth the first time, why wouldn't he add those same good things into the new earth?"

2. Why do you think most people avoid studying God's word to help them imagine what Heaven will be like?

Most of us have come to rest on 1 Corinthians 2:9, we can't see, hear, or conceive what God has prepared so why even try.

3. What insight does 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 give you as to the study of God's word?

As I read on to verse 10, I come to understand that this message is saying the opposite of what I may get from only verse 9 alone. In fact God has revealed what He has prepared through His Spirit and we know God's Spirit speaks through His Word.

4. What would life be like without death? Without sickness and pain? Without sorrow and tears?

Imagine a world with all the beauty and delights of creation and relationships without any death, sickness, pain, sorrow, tears. All the things that bring bad into the world no longer are in the world. Now we see again what God had given us in the original creation. This is the New Heaven and New Earth!

5. Read 2 Peter 3:13, what is Peter encouraging us toward? How does 2 Peter 3 and Genesis 1 & 2 relate?

Peter teaches us that we can look forward to a new earth that God has promised. The same God that created heaven and earth will destroy the old Heaven and Earth and create a new Heaven and Earth.

6. Has God given you a peace to know that the good and perfect earth He created in the beginning before the fall of man will be made new? Is that a comfort to you?

Allow people to share their hearts about our eternal destiny.