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# THE AFTERLIFE

**CORE TRUTHS**  
TO BUILD YOUR LIFE ON

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**F O U N D A T I O N S**

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**A SADDLEBACK CHURCH SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE**

## THE AFTERLIFE

### *Foundations: Core Truths to Build Your Life On* A Saddleback Church Small Group Study Guide

Edition 1.0

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# Foreword

## What Foundations Will Do for You

I once built a log cabin in the Sierra Mountains of northern California. After ten backbreaking weeks of clearing forest land, all I had to show for my effort was a leveled and squared concrete foundation. I was discouraged, but my father, who built over a hundred church buildings in his lifetime, said, “Cheer up, son! Once you’ve laid the foundation, the most important work is behind you.” I’ve since learned that this is a principle for all of life: You can never build anything larger than the foundation can handle.

The foundation of any building determines both its size and strength and the same is true of our lives. A life built on a false or faulty foundation will never reach the height that God intends for it to reach. If you skimp on your foundation, you limit your life.

That’s why this material is so vitally important. *Foundations* is the biblical basis of a purpose-driven life. You must understand these life-changing truths to enjoy God’s purposes for you. This curriculum has been taught, tested, and refined over ten years with thousands of people at Saddleback Church. I’ve often said that *Foundations* is the most important class in our church.

## Why You Need a Biblical Foundation for Life

- It’s the source of personal growth and stability. So many of the problems in our lives are caused by faulty thinking. That’s why Jesus said the truth will set us free and why Colossians 2:7 (CEV) says,

*Plant your roots in Christ and let him be the foundation for your life.*

- It’s the underpinning of a healthy family. Proverbs 24:3 (GNT) says,

*Homes are built on the foundation of wisdom and understanding.*

In a world that is constantly changing, strong families are based on God’s unchanging truth.

- It's the starting point of leadership. You can never lead people farther than you've gone yourself. Proverbs 16:12b (THE MESSAGE) says,

*Sound leadership has a moral foundation.*

- It's the basis for your eternal reward in heaven. Paul said,

*Whatever we build on that foundation will be tested by fire on the day of judgment . . . We will be rewarded if our building is left standing.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 3:12, 14 (CEV)**

- God's truth is the only foundation that will last. The Bible tells us that:

*The sound, wholesome teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ . . . are the foundation for a godly life.*

**1 TIMOTHY 6:3 (NLT96)**

and that,

*God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone.*

**2 TIMOTHY 2:19 (NLT)**

Jesus concluded his Sermon on the Mount with a story illustrating this important truth. Two houses were built on different foundations. The house built on sand was destroyed when rain, floods, and wind swept it away. But the house built on the foundation of solid rock remained firm. He concluded,

*"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."*

**MATTHEW 7:24 (NIV)**

The Message paraphrase of this verse shows how important this is:

*"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life . . . They are foundational words, words to build a life on."*

**MATTHEW 7:24 (THE MESSAGE)**

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I cannot recommend this curriculum more highly to you. It has changed our church, our staff, and thousands of lives. For too long, too many have thought of theology as something that doesn't relate to our everyday lives, but *Foundations* explodes that mold. This study makes it clear that the foundation of what we do and say in each day of our lives is what we believe. I am thrilled that this in-depth, life-changing curriculum is now being made available for everyone to use.

— *Rick Warren*  
Author of *The Purpose Driven® Life*

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## Preface

Get ready for a radical statement, a pronouncement sure to make you wonder if we've lost our grip on reality. There is nothing more exciting than doctrine!

Track with us for a second on this. Doctrine is the study of what God has to say. What God has to say is always the truth. The truth gives me the right perspective on myself and on the world around me. The right perspective results in decisions of faith and experiences of joy. That is exciting!

The objective of *Foundations: Core Truths to Build Your Life On* is to present the basic truths of the Christian faith in a simple, systematic, and life-changing way—in other words, to teach doctrine. The question is, why? In a world in which people's lives are filled with crying needs, why teach doctrine? Because biblical doctrine has the answer to many of those crying needs! Please don't see this as a clash between needs-oriented and doctrine-oriented teaching. The truth is we need both. We all need to learn how to deal with worry in our lives. One of the keys to dealing with worry is an understanding of the biblical doctrine of the hope of heaven. Couples need to know what the Bible says about how to have a better marriage. They also need a deeper understanding of the doctrine of the Fatherhood of God, giving the assurance of God's love upon which all healthy relationships are built. Parents need to understand the Bible's practical insights for raising kids. They also need an understanding of the sovereignty of God, a certainty of the fact that God is in control, that will carry them through the inevitable ups and downs of being a parent. Doctrinal truth meets our deepest needs.

Welcome to a study that will have a lifelong impact on the way you look at everything around you and above you and within you. Helping you develop a "Christian worldview" is our goal as the writers of this study. A Christian worldview is the ability to see everything through the filter of God's truth. The time you dedicate to this study will lay a foundation for new perspectives that will have tremendous benefits for the rest of your life. This study will help you:

- Lessen the stress in everyday life
- See the real potential for growth the Lord has given you
- Increase your sense of security in an often troubling world

- 
- Find new tools for helping others (your friends, your family, your children)  
find the right perspective on life
  - Fall more deeply in love with the Lord

Throughout this study, you'll also see boxes titled **A Closer Look** where we'll take time to expand on a truth or look at it from a different perspective.



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# *Understanding Your Study Guide*

## CHECKING IN

You will open each meeting with an opportunity for everyone to check in with each other about how you are doing with the weekly assignments. Accountability is a key to success in this study!

## KEY VERSE

Each week you will find a key verse or Scripture passage for your group to read together. If someone in the group has a different translation, ask them to read it aloud so the group can get a bigger picture of the meaning of the passage.

## AUDIO LESSON

There is a audio lesson for the group to listen together each week. Take notes in the lesson outlines as you listen to the audio, and be sure to refer back to these notes during your discussion time.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Each audio lesson is complemented by questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. The material in this study is meant to be your servant, not your master, so there is no reason to rush through the answers. Give everyone ample opportunity to share their thoughts. If you don't get through all of the discovery questions, that's okay. Each discussion question section ends with a **Did You Get It?** and **Share with Someone** prompt that will help you focus back on the big picture of the lesson.

## LIVING ON PURPOSE

James 1:22 (NCV) says,

*Do what God's teaching says; when you only listen and do nothing, you are fooling yourselves.*

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In his book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren identifies God's five purposes for our lives. They are worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism. We will focus on one or two of these five purposes in each lesson and discuss how it relates to the subject of the study. This section is very important, so please be sure to leave time for it.

### **PRAYER DIRECTION**

At the end of each session, you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

Get ready for God to do incredible things in your life as you begin the adventure of learning more deeply about the most exciting message in the world: the truth about God!

— *Tom Holladay and Kay Warren*

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## *How to Use This Curriculum*

Follow these simple steps for a successful small group meeting:

- Open your group meeting by using the **CHECKING IN** sections of your study.
- Have someone read the **KEY VERSE** aloud and spend a few quiet moments meditating on it.
- Listen to the audio lesson together while following the material and filling in the blanks in the **AUDIO LESSON** section
- Spend some time answering the **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**. Be sure to review the **LIVING ON PURPOSE** section to help you implement the lessons into your daily life. Commit to fulfilling any assignments before your next lesson.
- Close your time together by following the **PRAYER DIRECTION** suggestions.

### **A TIP FOR THE HOST**

The study guide material is meant to be your servant, not your master. The point is not to race through the sessions, but to take time to let God work in your lives. It is not necessary to “go around the circle” before you move on to the next question. Give people the freedom to speak, but don’t insist on it or make it mandatory. Your group will enjoy deeper, more open sharing and discussion if people don’t feel pressured to speak up.

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## HOW TO USE THE INTERACTIVE VERSION OF THIS STUDY GUIDE

If you are viewing this study guide in its downloadable form on your tablet, phone, or even your desktop, you will not have to print it out unless you want to. Throughout the guide, you will see areas where you can type directly into the guide. There are also convenient links that direct you to external resources including Scripture passages and suggested interactive activities.

### HELPFUL TIP

For the best experience on Android™ platforms, please view this interactive study on Adobe Acrobat Reader DC®.



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## Session One

# *The Heartbreaking Reality of Hell*

### CHECKING IN

1. What do you hope to get out of this small group study?
2. What do you think most strongly influences people's beliefs and opinions about the afterlife? Check three responses below.
  - Movies and television
  - Other world religions
  - Literature
  - Wishful thinking
  - The Bible
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

### KEY VERSE

*God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

**1 JOHN 5:11b-12 (NIV84)**

### AUDIO LESSON

Listen to the audio lesson now and take notes in your outline on pages 14–18.

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## *The Heartbreaking Reality of Hell*

*Yes, a wise man thinks much of death, while the fool thinks only of having a good time now.*

**ECCLESIASTES 7:4 (TLB)**

### **IS HELL A REAL PLACE?**

*"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."*

**MATTHEW 25:46 (NIV)**

*"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

*"For the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."*

**JOHN 5:24, 28b-29 (NKJV)**

**Who is the one who judges and does the separating? \_\_\_\_\_, the only righteous one.**

*For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.*

**ACTS 17:31 (NLT96)**

## WHY WAS HELL CREATED?

- **Hell was not created originally for any human being, but for**

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*"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"*

MATTHEW 25:41 (NIV)

- **Contrary to popular opinion, Satan is not yet confined to hell. He now resides \_\_\_\_\_ .**

*"Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out."*

JOHN 12:31 (NIV)

- **One day (according to the book of Revelation), God is going to cast Satan, death, and hades into the \_\_\_\_\_ (another name for hell).**

*And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

REVELATION 20:10 (NIV)

*Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.*

REVELATION 20:14 (NIV)

## WHO WILL BE IN HELL?

The facts of life and eternity that we must all eventually face are:

- **We were all headed for an eternity without God in hell.**

*All have sinned and are not good enough for God's glory.*

**ROMANS 3:23 (NCV91)**

- **Jesus came to rescue us from this certainty of separation from God.**

*He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.*

**1 THESSALONIANS 1:10b (NLT)**

- **Those who trust Jesus are rescued!**

*Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save everyone who comes to God through him. He lives forever to plead with God on their behalf.*

**HEBREWS 7:25 (NLT96)**

- **Those who do not trust Jesus are not rescued from hell and separation from God.**

*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

**1 JOHN 5:11-12 (NIV84)**

## WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE I LOVE?

- **If they're still living, \_\_\_\_\_ !**
- **If they've already died, \_\_\_\_\_ !**



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. According to Matthew 25:41, why was hell created? Why do you think people often resist the idea of hell being a real place?
2. From the Bible, Tom demonstrated a clear argument for the existence of hell. Is it important there is a hell? Why?
3. Of what are we assured, according to John 5:24 and 5:28–29? These verses can offer encouragement or concern. What is your personal response to them?
4. What has impacted you most as we looked at hell being a real place? Why was hell created, and who will be in hell?

**Did You Get It?** How has this week's study helped you see why it is important to discuss the reality of hell?

**Share with Someone.** Think of a person you can encourage with the truth you learned in this session. Write their name in the space below and pray for God to provide that opportunity this week.

## LIVING ON PURPOSE

*Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry & Evangelism*

This week we focus on the purpose of **evangelism**.

The truth we have learned in this session is hell is a real place, and those who do not know Jesus Christ are not rescued from it. For many of us, this truth immediately brings to mind those we know and love who do not have a relationship with Jesus. The thought of them spending eternity separated from God is almost too painful for us to bear. As Tom shared, we must not give up hope and we must entrust them to God.

When we realize that many of those we know and love may spend eternity separated from God, we are faced to ask ourselves, "What is God's part, and what is my part?" What is our responsibility to those who do not know Jesus as Savior and Rescuer? Whom do you know that needs to hear the message of Jesus' sacrifice for them? For whom will you begin to pray for an opportunity to share with them this week?

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You can use the **Circles of Influence** in the **Small Group Resources** section on page 50 to help you identify those with whom you might share.

I will pray for God to prepare the hearts of and provide opportunities to speak to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I will make time this week to share Christ with:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### PRAYER DIRECTION

- Take a few minutes to discuss how you can make the most of praying for one another. Begin a habit of recording your prayer requests and praises in **Our Prayers and Praise** on page 53 in the **Small Group Resources** section of this booklet. Is there someone in the group who would like to champion prayer for this session? This means making sure the importance of prayer isn't forgotten by recording prayer requests and praises.
- Share your prayer requests with each other and pray over the needs of the group.

## Session Two

# *The Truth about Hell*

### CHECKING IN

Whom did you tell that hell is a real place and those who do not know Jesus Christ are not rescued from it? What was the response? Do you need to do any follow-up? How can the group pray for you?

### KEY VERSE

*"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."*

**MATTHEW 25:46 (NIV)**

### AUDIO LESSON

Listen to the audio lesson now and take notes in your outline on pages 20–26.

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## *What Happens to People in Hell?*

- **Emotional and Relational Torment**

*"But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

**MATTHEW 8:12 (NIV)**

*"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather be afraid of God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell."*

**MATTHEW 10:28 (GNT)**

- **Physical Torment**

*"So if your hand makes you lose your faith, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life without a hand than to keep both hands and go off to hell, to the fire that never goes out. And if your foot makes you lose your faith, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life without a foot than to keep both feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye makes you lose your faith, take it out! It is better for you to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to keep both eyes and be thrown into hell. There 'the worms that eat them never die, and the fire that burns them is never put out.'"*

**MARK 9:43-48 (GNT)**

- **Spiritual Torment**

*"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"*

**MATTHEW 25:41 (NIV)**

*They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.*

**2 THESSALONIANS 1:9 (NIV84)**

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## WHERE DO PEOPLE GO NOW WHEN THEY DIE?

The **progressive revelation of the afterlife in the Bible** is defined in three primary ways.

1. **In much of the Old Testament, the afterlife was seen as shadowy and unknown.**
  
2. **During the intertestamental period (the 400 years between the final events of the Old Testament and the first events of the New Testament), the Jewish concept of sheol had progressed to the stage where it was believed that sheol had two distinct compartments.**
  - a. **One section was a place of torment for the wicked, called**  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

**b. The other was a place of conscious bliss, often called**

\_\_\_\_\_ **or** \_\_\_\_\_ .

*"Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed from the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. In Hades he lifted his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great fixed, so that those who want to go over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"*

**LUKE 16:19-31 (NASB1995)**

### A CLOSER LOOK

Jesus' story in Luke 16 teaches us two hard-to-hear truths:

- **There is \_\_\_\_\_ from torment.**
- **There are no \_\_\_\_\_ .**

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**3. After Christ's resurrection, the New Testament teaches that believers who die enter immediately into the presence of Christ and that unbelievers enter immediately into a place of punishment and separation from God.**

*I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ.*

**PHILIPPIANS 1:23 (NIV)**

The intermediate state and the resurrection of the body is defined in the Scriptures below.

*Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-8 (NIV84)**

*They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*

**LUKE 24:2-3 (NIV)**

The Bible tells us clearly that:

- When Jesus was resurrected, he had a resurrected body (John 20:19–20).
- We, too, will one day have a resurrected body (1 Corinthians 15:42–44).
- We receive that resurrected body when Jesus returns (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).



## HOW CAN I BE SURE I WON'T SPEND ETERNITY IN HELL?

The crime that will send a person to hell is: \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Savior we all need.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."*

**JOHN 3:16-18 (NIV)**



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the Bible so clearly and graphically tells us that hell is a place of suffering?
2. Matthew 25:46 tells us unbelievers will go away to eternal punishment. Discuss together why it is so difficult for us to comprehend the concept of eternity. Share some thoughts about what eternal punishment and suffering might be like.
3. We sometimes hear people joke that they want to spend eternity with their friends in hell. These people think being with their friends in hell will be better than being in heaven without them. Why is this thought a great misconception? How does the illustration in Mark 9:43 help you understand the physical torment of those who go to hell? When sharing about the afterlife, why should the concept of eternal separation from God be important to someone who has never had a relationship with God?
4. What confidence do Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:6–8 and Philippians 1:23 give you after all this talk about hell?

**Did You Get It?** How has this week's study helped you see why it is important to discuss the reality of eternity?

**Share with Someone.** Think of a person you can encourage with the truth you learned in this session. Pray for God to provide that opportunity this week.

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## LIVING ON PURPOSE

### *Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry & Evangelism*

This week we focus on the purpose of **fellowship**.

At the end of today's audio lesson, Pastor Tom gave some action steps regarding what we can do for people who do not know Jesus. He said:

*"If you have friends or family who have died and you're frightened may be separated from God in hell, trust God as the perfect and just judge. Leave it in his hands.*

*"If you have friends or family who are alive and who have not yet called upon Jesus to rescue them, ask God for a new boldness to tell them the good news of Christ's love—the good news that Jesus came to forgive our sins if we will trust him."*

## PRAYER DIRECTION

Today, as your prayer direction and your practice in the purpose of fellowship, pray together for anybody in your life who may fall into one of these categories. Share names if you are comfortable, and as a group, pray as a group for each of these names. For people who have already died, release them into God's just hands. For people who are still living, pray for continued opportunities to share the good news with them.

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## Session Three

# *The Truth about Heaven*

### CHECKING IN

In the last session we learned that the crime that sends people to hell is rejecting Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the savior and rescuer we all need. We also saw that not only is hell a real place, but suffering and separation from God is eternal if we fail to accept Jesus as our rescuer while we live here on earth. With whom did you share these truths? How did it go?

### KEY VERSE

*LORD, I look up to you, up to heaven, where you rule.*

**PSALM 123:1 (GNT)**

### AUDIO LESSON

Listen to the audio lesson now and take notes in your outline on pages 28–34.

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## *The Truth about Heaven*

*I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.*

**PHILIPPIANS 3:14 (NLT96)**

*He has also set eternity in the human heart.*

**ECCLESIASTES 3:11b (NIV)**

### **WHERE IS HEAVEN?**

- **Heaven is \_\_\_\_\_ .**

*LORD, I look up to you, up to heaven, where you rule.*

**PSALM 123:1 (GNT)**

- **In the Old Testament, heaven is spoken of figuratively in terms of layers of sky. The heavens are where the birds fly, the trees breathe, and the rain falls. This was referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_ .**
- **The heavens are also where the moon and stars move in their orbits. This was referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_ .**
- **The \_\_\_\_\_ , or highest heaven, was said to be where God dwells in a special way.**
- **Heaven is \_\_\_\_\_ .**

- 
- Heaven is God's \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of believers.

*I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, the home of God is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them."*

**REVELATION 21:3 (NLT)**

- One of the names given to heaven is the \_\_\_\_\_ .

*But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a heavenly city for them.*

**HEBREWS 11:16 (NLT96)**

## WHO WILL BE IN HEAVEN?

*But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands of angels gathered together with joy. You have come to the meeting of God's firstborn children whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all people, and to the spirits of good people who have been made perfect.*

**HEBREWS 12:22-23 (NCV)**

*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

**ROMANS 10:9 (NIV84)**

## A CLOSER LOOK

### The Timing of the Rapture

Will babies or children who die go to heaven? Yes! Although they are not old enough to be saved, they are kept safe by God's grace. A child (or someone who is mentally handicapped) who dies before reaching the age that they can understand their sin and need for Christ will not be held accountable for what they cannot understand. That would violate both God's justice and God's grace. Although the Bible does not directly answer this question, we can see two specific indications that the answer is yes.

1. God is just and righteous in everything he does.

*The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.*

**PSALM 145:17 (NIV84)**

2. David believed that he would be reunited with his baby who had died (2 Samuel 12:23).

## HOW WILL I BE JUDGED AS A BELIEVER?

1. The \_\_\_\_\_

*"I am telling you the truth: those who hear my words and believe in him who sent me have eternal life. They will not be judged, but have already passed from death to life."*

**JOHN 5:24 (GNT)**

2. The \_\_\_\_\_

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:10 (NIV84)**

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## THE NATURE OF THE BEMA JUDGMENT

*By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-15 (NIV)**

1. **What we've built into our lives that will last will be \_\_\_\_\_ .**
2. **What we've built into our lives that will not last will be \_\_\_\_\_ .**
3. **Whatever our rewards or loss, our salvation is \_\_\_\_\_ .**

*Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 4:5 (NIV84)**

---

## A CLOSER LOOK

We're told in Scripture that believers will be rewarded based on three specifics:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*"For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done."*

**MATTHEW 16:27 (NIV)**

2. \_\_\_\_\_

*"I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."*

**JEREMIAH 17:10 (NIV84)**

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*"But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken."*

**MATTHEW 12:36 (NIV)**



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share one specific thought that sticks out to you as you think back on Kay's teaching about heaven's location, heaven as "home," and who will be in heaven. What encourages you and fills you with joy?
2. 1 Corinthians 3:10–15 says believers who build the wrong things into their lives will "suffer loss" but will be saved. What are some of the things we build into our lives now that will not survive the test of fire? What are some things that will last? What kind of loss do you think we will suffer?
3. Why is the thought of judgment so intimidating for us? What did you hear today that helps you understand the judgment followers of Christ will experience?
4. In each of the following boxes put two goals you want to achieve while you are on this earth.
5. There is no greater truth to build your life on—to reduce your anxieties and motivate in you genuine greatness—than the goal of heaven. How would life look if each day was lived with heaven as the goal?

**Did You Get It?** How has this week's study helped you see why it is important to discuss the reality of judgment?

**Share with Someone.** Think of a person you can encourage with the truth you learned in this session. Write their name in the space below and pray for God to provide that opportunity this week.

## LIVING ON PURPOSE

*Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry & Evangelism*

This week we focus on the purpose of **discipleship**.

The second discussion question (above) talked about the things that we build into our lives. This week, do an inventory of your life. How do you spend your time? What do you allow to influence you? What are you investing in? Ask yourself if your answers to these things would survive the test of fire.

---

## PRAYER DIRECTION

This week, ask God to help you live with eternity in mind. Make sure to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and bring those to God in prayer as well.

---

## Session Four

# *Life in Heaven*

### CHECKING IN

1. Throughout this study, you've been praying for people who do not yet know Jesus. Have you been able to share the good news with any of them during this study? If so, how did it go?
2. Brainstorm together for a few minutes about how great heaven will be by giving one-line completions to the following statements. Have fun with this!
  - The greatest thing about heaven will be that I won't have to . . .
  - The greatest thing about heaven will be that I will be able to . . .
  - A picture that helps me to think of the greatness of heaven is . . .
  - In heaven there will be an abundant supply of . . .
  - In heaven there will be no . . .
  - Someone I'm looking forward to meeting in heaven is . . .
  - Something I'm looking forward to doing in heaven is . . .

### KEY VERSE

*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*

**COLOSSIANS 3:2 (NIV)**

### AUDIO LESSON

Listen to the audio lesson now and take notes in your outline on pages 36–42.

---

## *What Will Heaven Be Like?*

There are six truths about life in heaven that will bring you great joy.

*You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

**PSALM 16:11 (NIV84)**

### **1. Holiness**

*And now, all glory to God, who is able to keep you from stumbling, and who will bring you into his glorious presence innocent of sin and with great joy.*

**JUDE 1:24 (NLT96)**

*Dear friends, now we are children of God, and we have not yet been shown what we will be in the future. But we know that when Christ comes again, we will be like him, because we will see him as he really is.*

**1 JOHN 3:2 (NCV)**

### **2. A glorified body**

*Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:1 (NIV84)**

*For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:4 (NIV)**

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### 3. Immortality

*“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

**REVELATION 21:4 (NIV)**

*For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:53 (NLT)**

### 4. Satisfaction of all needs

*“Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat.”*

**REVELATION 7:16 (NIV84)**

### 5. Sharing of Christ’s glory

*Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

**ROMANS 8:17 (NIV)**

### 6. Intimate fellowship with God and other believers

*Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 13:12 (NIV84)**

## HOW CAN HEAVEN AFFECT MY LIFE NOW?

### 1. Motivation for \_\_\_\_\_ .

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

**JOHN 14:6 (NIV)**

*This is what God told us: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life, but whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

**1 JOHN 5:11-12 (NCV)**

### 2. Wise use of \_\_\_\_\_ .

*"Don't store treasures for yourselves here on earth where moths and rust will destroy them and thieves can break in and steal them. But store your treasures in heaven where they cannot be destroyed by moths or rust and where thieves cannot break in and steal them. Your heart will be where your treasure is."*

**MATTHEW 6:19-21 (NCV)**

### 3. Serving the \_\_\_\_\_ .

*"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

*"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"*

**MATTHEW 25:34-40 (NIV)**

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4. Endurance in \_\_\_\_\_ .

*So we do not give up. Our physical body is becoming older and weaker, but our spirit inside us is made new every day. We have small troubles for a while now, but they are helping us gain an eternal glory that is much greater than the troubles. We set our eyes not on what we see but on what we cannot see. What we see will last only a short time, but what we cannot see will last forever.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18 (NCV)**

*So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18 (THE MESSAGE)**

5. Easing of \_\_\_\_\_ .

*Since you became alive again, so to speak, when Christ arose from the dead, now set your sights on the rich treasures and joys of heaven where he sits beside God in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts; don't spend your time worrying about things down here.*

**COLOSSIANS 3:1-2 (TLB)**

*"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"*

**REVELATION 5:12b (NIV)**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Look again at the six things under What Will Heaven Be Like? on page 36. Which two sound the most attractive to you right now? Which one is difficult to understand?
2. How would you like your glorified body to look? What would you like it to be able to do?
3. How do our thoughts reveal the things we value and affect our actions?
4. Review How Can Heaven Affect My Life Now? at the end of the teaching outline. Then review the accompanying verses together again. Check the areas below which you think are your areas of strength. Then check the ones which are areas of growth.

	Strengths	Growth Areas
Motivation for evangelism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wise use of finances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving the needy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Endurance in suffering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easing of anxieties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. How committed are you to letting God transform your thoughts in these areas to reflect His thoughts? What are you willing to do to see people come to Christ? How can you use your finances to further the things God cares about? How can you notice and meet the needs of others? Are you willing to be inconvenienced or suffer for the things you believe in? Do you desire for your anxieties to be eased because you are heavenly focused?



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## LIVING ON PURPOSE • PRAYER DIRECTION

### *Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry & Evangelism*

This week we focus on the purpose of **worship**.

God's Word repeatedly instructs us to shift our focus from earthly matters to God's perspective. Read through the seven truths below. Take a few minutes to reflect on each one and consider which ones you need to be convinced of in order to live with eternity consistently in view. Make yourself accountable to the group for growth in these areas.

- God's plan for me will never change.
- My salvation is safe and secure in heaven, where nothing can destroy it.
- When he comes for me, I will go with him to the home he carefully and lovingly has been preparing for me.
- Nothing can ever separate me from his love—no pain, no suffering, no tragedy, no hardship, no demon, no horrible mistake on my part, nothing!
- I am to spend my days learning to love him and to trust him.
- I am to be his arms and hands of compassion to fellow human beings.
- Someday, I will join millions of other believers at his throne, and together we will worship him. We will sing with the angels, "*Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!*" Revelation 5:12b (NIV)

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## PRAYER DIRECTION

Being heavenly minded makes worshiping God a natural response to him. Pray through the following psalm and meditate for a few minutes on the heart of the psalmist's words. Ask God to make this heartfelt prayer your own.

*How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O LORD Almighty!  
My soul yearns, even faints,  
for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God . . .  
Blessed are those who dwell in your house;  
they are ever praising you.  
Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
who have set their hearts on pilgrimage . . .  
They go from strength to strength,  
till each appears before God in Zion.  
Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty;  
listen to me, O God of Jacob.  
Look upon our shield, O God;  
look with favor on your anointed one.  
Better is one day in your courts  
than a thousand elsewhere;  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.  
For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
the LORD bestows favor and honor;  
no good thing does he withhold  
from those whose walk is blameless.  
O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.*

**PSALM 84 (NIV84)**

## *Small Group Resources*

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## *Helps for Hosts*

### **Top Ten Ideas for New Hosts**

CONGRATULATIONS! As the host of your small group, you have responded to the call to help shepherd Jesus' flock. Few other tasks in the family of God surpass the contribution you will be making. As you prepare to facilitate your group, whether it is one session or the entire series, here are a few thoughts to keep in mind. Remember you are not alone. God knows everything about you, and he knew you would be asked to facilitate your group. You may not feel ready; this is common for all good hosts. God promises, "*I will never leave you; I will never abandon you*" (Hebrews 13:5, NCV). Whether you are facilitating for one evening, several weeks, or a lifetime, you will be blessed as you serve.

- 1. Don't try to do it alone.** Pray right now for God to help you build a healthy team. If you can enlist a co-host to help you shepherd the group, you will find your experience much richer. This is your chance to involve as many people as you can in building a healthy group. All you have to do is ask people to help. You'll be surprised at the response.
- 2. Be friendly and be yourself.** God wants to use your unique gifts and temperament. Be sure to greet people at the door with a big smile . . . this can set the mood for the whole gathering. Remember, they are taking as big of a step to show up for this study as you are to host a small group! Don't try to do things exactly like another host; do them in a way that fits you. Admit when you don't have an answer and apologize when you make a mistake. Your group will love you for it and you'll sleep better at night.
- 3. Prepare for your meeting ahead of time.** Review the session and write down your responses to each question. Pay special attention to the **LIVING ON PURPOSE** section in each session that focuses on one God's five purposes for our lives that Rick Warren identifies in *The Purpose Driven Life*. This section will also help your group live out what the Bible teaches, not just talk about it.

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4. **Pray for your group members by name.** Before your group arrives, take a few moments and pray for each member by name. You may want to review the **Small Group Prayer** and **Praise Report** at least once a week. Ask God to use your time together to touch the heart of each person in your group. Expect God to lead you to whomever he wants you to encourage or challenge in a special way. If you listen, God will surely lead.
  5. **When you ask a question, be patient.** Someone will eventually respond. Sometimes people need a moment or two of silence to think about the question. If silence doesn't bother you, it won't bother anyone else. After someone responds, affirm the response with a simple, "Thanks," or "Great answer." Then ask, "How about somebody else?" or "Would someone who hasn't shared like to add anything?" Be sensitive to new people or reluctant members who aren't ready to say, pray, or do anything. If you give them a safe setting, they will blossom over time. If someone in your group is a wallflower who sits silently through every session, consider talking to that person privately and encouraging them to participate. Let them know how important they are to you—that they are loved and appreciated, and that the group would value their input. Remember, still water often runs deep.
  6. **Provide transitions between questions.** Ask if anyone would like to read a paragraph or Bible passage. Don't call on anyone, but ask for a volunteer, and then be patient until someone begins. Be sure to thank the person who reads aloud.
  7. **Break into smaller groups occasionally.** With a greater opportunity to talk in a small circle, people will connect more with the study, apply more quickly what they're learning, and ultimately get more out of their small group experience. A small circle also encourages a quiet person to participate and tends to minimize the effects of a more vocal or dominant member.
  8. **Small circles are also helpful during prayer time.** People who are unaccustomed to praying aloud will feel more comfortable trying it with just two or three others. Also, prayer requests won't take as much time, so circles will have more time to actually pray. When you gather back with the whole group, you can have one person from each circle briefly update everyone on the prayer requests from their subgroups. The other great aspect of subgrouping is that it fosters leadership development. As you ask people in the group to facilitate discussion or to lead a prayer circle, it gives them a small leadership step that can build their confidence.

- 
- 9. Rotate facilitators occasionally.** You may be perfectly capable of hosting each time, but you will help others grow in their faith and gifts if you give them opportunities to host the group.
- 10. One final challenge (for new or first-time hosts).** Before your first opportunity to lead, look up each of the six passages listed below. Read each one as a devotional exercise to help prepare you with a shepherd's heart. Trust us on this one. If you do this, you will be more than ready for your first meeting.

*When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

**MATTHEW 9:36-38 (NIV)**

*I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

**JOHN 10:14-15 (NIV)**

*Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

**1 PETER 5:2-4 (NIV84)**

*If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being likeminded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.*

**PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5 (NIV84)**

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*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

**HEBREWS 10:23-25 (NIV84)**

*But we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. . . . For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.*

**1 THESSALONIANS 2:7-8, 11-12 (NIV84)**

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## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **How Long Will This Group Meet?**

This study is four sessions long. We encourage your group to add an extra session for a celebration. In your final session, each group member may decide if he or she desires to continue on for another study. At that time you may also want to do some informal evaluation, discuss your group guidelines, and decide which study you want to do next. We recommend you visit [saddleback.com/watch](http://saddleback.com/watch) for more audio-based small group studies.

### **Who Is the Host?**

The host is the person who coordinates and facilitates your group meetings. In addition to being a host, we encourage you to select one or more group members to lead your group discussions. Several other responsibilities can be rotated, including refreshments, prayer requests, worship, or keeping up with those who miss a meeting. Shared ownership in the group helps everybody grow.

### **Where Do We Find New Group Members?**

Recruiting new members can be a challenge for groups, especially new groups with just a few people, or existing groups that lose a few people along the way. We encourage you to use the **Circles of Influence** diagram on page 50 of this study to brainstorm a list of people from your workplace, church, school, neighborhood, family, and so on. Then pray for the people on each member's list. Allow each member to invite several people from their list. Some groups fear that newcomers will interrupt the intimacy that members have built over time. However, groups that welcome newcomers generally gain strength with the infusion of new blood. Remember, the next person you add just might become a friend for eternity. Logistically, groups find different ways to add members. Some groups remain permanently open, while others choose to open periodically, such as at the beginning or end of a study. If your group becomes too large for easy, face-to-face conversations, you can subgroup, forming a second discussion group in another room.



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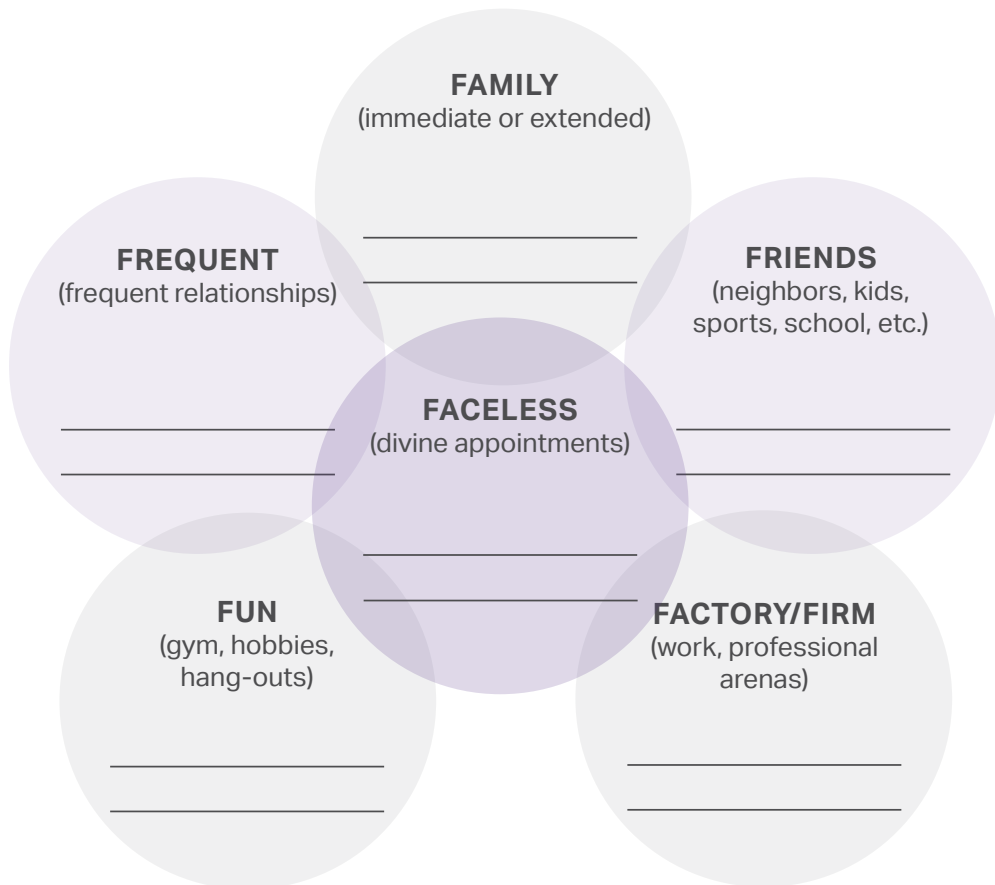
## How Do We Handle the Childcare Needs in Our Group?

Childcare needs must be handled very carefully. This is a sensitive issue. We suggest you seek creative solutions as a group. One common solution is to have the adults meet in the living room and share the cost of a babysitter (or two) who can be with the kids in another part of the house. Another popular option is to have one supervised home for the kids and a second home (close by) for the adults. If desired, the adults could rotate the responsibility of providing a lesson for the kids. This last option is great with school-age kids and can be a huge blessing to families.

# Circles of Influence

## Discover Who You Can Connect in Community

Use this chart to help carry out one of the values in the **Small Group Guidelines** to “Welcome Newcomers.” Follow this simple, three-step process: 1) List one to two people in each circle. 2) Prayerfully select one person or couple from your list, and tell your group about them. 3) Give them a call and invite them to your next meeting. Over fifty percent of those invited to a small group say, “Yes!”



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## *Small Group Guidelines*

It's a good idea for every group to put words to their shared values, expectations, and commitments. Such guidelines will help you avoid unspoken agendas and unmet expectations. We recommend you discuss your guidelines during your meeting in order to lay the foundation for a healthy group experience. Feel free to modify anything that does not work for your group.

We agree to the following values:

### **Clear Purpose**

To grow healthy spiritual lives by building a healthy small group community

### **Group Attendance**

To give priority to the group meeting (call if I am absent or late)

### **Safe Environment**

To create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved (no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes)

### **Be Confidential**

To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group

### **Conflict Resolution**

To avoid gossip and to immediately resolve any concerns by following the principles of Matthew 18:15–17

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## Spiritual Health

To give group members permission to speak into my life and help me live a healthy, balanced spiritual life that is pleasing to God

## Limit Our Freedom

To limit our freedom by not serving or consuming alcohol during small group meetings or events so as to avoid causing a weaker brother or sister to stumble (1 Corinthians 8:1–13; Romans 14:19–21)

## Welcome Newcomers

To invite friends who might benefit from this study and warmly welcome newcomers

## Build Relationships

To get to know the other members of the group and pray for them regularly

**OTHER** \_\_\_\_\_

We have also discussed and agree on the following items:

**CHILDCARE** \_\_\_\_\_

**STARTING TIME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ENDING TIME** \_\_\_\_\_

If you haven't already done so, take a few minutes to fill out the **Small Group Calendar** on page 54.



## Our Prayers and Praise

This is a place where you can write each other's requests for prayer. You can also make a note when God answers a prayer. Pray for each other's requests. If you're new to group prayer, it's okay to pray silently or to pray by using just one sentence:

"God, please help \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_."

DATE	PERSON	PRAYER REQUEST	PRAISE REPORT

## *Small Group Calendar*

Healthy groups share responsibilities and group ownership. It might take some time for this to develop. Shared ownership ensures that responsibility for the group doesn't fall to one person. Use the calendar to keep track of social events, mission projects, birthdays, or days off. Complete this calendar at your first or second meeting. Planning ahead will increase attendance and shared ownership.

DATE	LESSON	LOCATION	FACILITATOR	SNACK OR MEAL
	<b>Session One</b>			
	<b>Session Two</b>			
	<b>Session Three</b>			
	<b>Session Four</b>			

---

## *Small Group Roster*

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		

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## *Additional Resources*

### **Putting It Together Again When It's All Fallen Apart**

**By Tom Holladay**

Life crises can throw you into a tail-spin—a lost job, a failed relationship, a struggling business, a financial mess. Where do you start? How do you pull it together? How do you begin again?

Tom Holladay experienced a catastrophe first-hand when a sudden flood in California destroyed his home, his church, and the homes of many church members. Tom and his congregation had to rebuild, and they used the principles in the book of Nehemiah to get back on their feet.

Through this book, you will discover seven principles for putting it together again that will give you the direction you need to get rolling on that fresh start. Holladay will walk you through seeing every problem as an opportunity, facing the obstacles head on and taking your first step, knowing how to expect and reject opposition, build on your success, and dedicating yourself to the One who rebuilds our souls.

Available at [saddleback.com/watch/putting-it-together-again-when-its-all-fallen-apart](http://saddleback.com/watch/putting-it-together-again-when-its-all-fallen-apart).





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## Great Chapters of the Bible

### SMALL GROUP SERIES

By **Tom Holladay**

Great Chapters of the Bible, a audio-based small groups series, takes you on a verse-by-verse study through a life-changing passage from God's Word. Each volume of this series was designed to bring God's wisdom to life in vivid detail. By studying one chapter over several weeks, you will explore Scripture's rich, life-changing truths in an especially meaningful way. Current studies in this series include Ephesians 1, Romans 8, John 15, Philippians 4, and 2 Corinthians 4. Studies are available at

Available at [saddleback.com/studies](http://saddleback.com/studies) and [pastors.com](http://pastors.com).

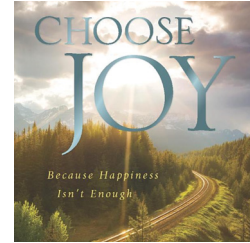


## Choose Joy: Because Happiness Isn't Enough

### WOMEN'S STUDY

By Kay Warren

On April 5, 2013, Kay Warren's life changed forever. That was the day she lost her son Matthew to suicide. Most of us will not face anything so devastating, but every single day we will face something that threatens our attempts to live with joy. Health problems, financial worries, marriage issues, loneliness, unresolved relational conflicts, anxiety about our nation or our world, stress over how our kids are turning out. In those moments, how do we choose joy over fear, apathy, or despair?



In *Choose Joy*, Kay shares the path to experiencing soul-satisfying joy no matter what you're going through. She helps you send your spiritual roots deep into the soil of God's love so that you can develop convictions and certainties about him that will become the source of your strength when happiness isn't enough.

"The only thing that would allow me to survive the loss of my son was what I knew and believed about God . . . and joy," says Kay. Let her lead you toward true and lasting joy in your life.

Available at [saddleback.com/watch/choose-joy-study](http://saddleback.com/watch/choose-joy-study).

### MORE *FOUNDATIONS* STUDIES COMING SOON!



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## *Key Verses*

### **Session One**

*God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

**1 JOHN 5:11b-12 (NIV84)**

### **Session Two**

*"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."*

**MATTHEW 25:46 (NIV)**

### **Session Three**

*LORD, I look up to you, up to heaven, where you rule.*

**PSALM 123:1 (GNT)**

### **Session Four**

*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*

**COLOSSIANS 3:2 (NIV)**

# Answer Key

## Session One

### The Heartbreaking Reality of Hell

#### IS HELL A REAL PLACE?

Who is the one who judges and does the separating? **JESUS**, the only righteous one.

#### WHY WAS HELL CREATED?

- Hell was not created originally for any human being, but for **SATAN AND HIS ANGELS**.
- Contrary to popular opinion, Satan is not yet confined to hell. He now resides **ON EARTH**.
- One day (according to the book of Revelation), God is going to cast Satan, death, and hades into the **LAKE OF FIRE** (another name for hell).

#### WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE I LOVE?

- If they're still living, **DON'T GIVE UP HOPE**.
- If they've already died, **TRUST THEM TO GOD**.

## Session Two

### The Truth about Hell

#### WHERE DO PEOPLE GO WHEN THEY DIE?

- One section was a place of torment for the wicked, called **HADES**.
- The other was a place of conscious bliss, often called **ABRAHAM'S BOSOM** or **PARADISE**.

#### A CLOSER LOOK

- There is **NO REST** from torment.
- There are no **SECOND CHANCES**.

#### *How Can I Be Sure I Won't Spend Eternity in Hell?*

The crime that will send a person to hell is: **REJECTING** Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Savior we all need.

## Session Three

### The Truth about Heaven

#### WHERE IS HEAVEN?

- Heaven is UP.
- In the Old Testament, heaven is spoken of figuratively in terms of layers of sky. The heavens are where the birds fly, the trees breathe, and the rain falls. This was referred to as the FIRST HEAVEN.
- The heavens are also where the moon and stars move in their orbits. This was referred to as the SECOND HEAVEN.
- The THIRD HEAVEN, or highest heaven, was said to be where God dwells in a special way.
- Heaven is HOME.
- Heaven is God's DWELLING PLACE and the FINAL DWELLING PLACE of believers.
- One of the names given to heaven is the HEAVENLY CITY.

#### HOW WILL I BE JUDGED AS A BELIEVER?

1. The GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT
2. The "BEMA" JUDGMENT

#### *The Nature of the Bema Judgment*

1. What we've built into our lives that will last will be REWARDED.
2. What we've built into our lives that will not last will be LOST.
3. Whatever our rewards or loss, our salvation is SECURE.

#### A CLOSER LOOK

1. ACTIONS
2. THOUGHTS
3. WORDS

## Session Four

### Life in Heaven

#### HOW CAN HEAVEN AFFECT MY LIFE NOW?

1. Motivation for EVANGELISM
2. Wise use of FINANCES
3. Serving the NEEDY
4. Endurance in SUFFERING
5. Easing of ANXIETIES

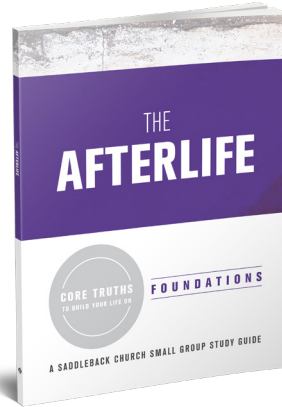
# THE AFTERLIFE

## **FOUNDATIONS: CORE TRUTHS TO BUILD YOUR LIFE ON A SADDLEBACK CHURCH SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE**

*Foundations: The Afterlife* is part of Saddleback's Foundations small group series. Written by Pastor Tom Holladay and Kay Warren, *Foundations* systematically explores what the Bible teaches on eleven of the essential doctrines or biblical truths that form the foundation of the Christian faith.

If there's one topic that has captured our collective imagination, it's the question of what (if anything) happens to us after we die? A quick google search reveals books, television shows and movies that have all speculated various scenarios, most of which have very little relationship to what the Bible actually teaches. Even among followers of Jesus, there are different ways of thinking about and articulating what happens in the afterlife.

Over these four sessions, Pastor Tom and Kay will carefully lay out what the Bible tells us about the afterlife. They will answer questions like Is there a literal Hell? If so, why was it created? Who will end up there? Where is Heaven? What is it like? How can the truth about Heaven impact my life today?



**Session One: The Heartbreaking Reality of Hell**

**Session Two: The Truth about Hell**

**Session Three: The Truth about Heaven**

**Session Four: Life in Heaven**



Written by Pastor Tom Holladay and Kay Warren, *Foundations: Core Truths to Build Your Life On* is a small group series that systematically explores what the Bible teaches on the essential doctrines or biblical truths that form the foundation of the Christian faith. Each study in the series will guide your group through one of the core truths of the Christian faith. During our four sessions together, we'll look at the big questions surrounding the afterlife of Jesus Christ: Where do we learn about Jesus' second coming? Who will be involved? When will it happen? Why is it so important? How should it impact how we live today?



**SADDLEBACK CHURCH**

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