

Heaven

November 5-6, 2011

ICE BREAKER:

1. Where is your favorite spot to go? Why?
2. Describe a time when you were the happiest.
3. Was there something you laughed about this past week that had you in "stitches"? Or do you recall a recent time? Can you tell us about it??
4. If you were on a desert isle in the warm Pacific, who would you want with you? Who would you not want with you???

INTRODUCTION

In Mark Twain's, Adventure's of Huckleberry Finn, the Christian spinster Miss Watson takes a dim view of Huck's fun-loving spirit. According to Huck, "She went on and told me all about the good place. She said all a body would have to do there was go around all day long with a harp and sing, forever and ever. So I didn't think much of it...I asked her if she reckoned Tom Sawyer would go there, and she said, not by a considerable sight. I was glad about that, because I wanted him and me to be together." Heaven, Randy Alcorn, pg.7.

1. What are people's view of Heaven today? What do you think of Huck Finn's view of heaven and of this Barna Research Poll: "An overwhelming majority of Americans continue to believe that there is life after death and that heaven and hell exist." Alcorn, pg. 9

2. What or who has distorted people's view of Heaven? John 8:44, Revelation 13:6

DISCUSSION

1. Do you imagine Heaven as a familiar, physical, tangible place? Why or why not?

2. Did you know that God's Word clearly states Heaven will be a physical place? What does Isaiah 65:17 and Revelation 21:1-4 say about this?

3. Have you ever thought about this in regards to Heaven? "Because God created Heaven, it had a beginning and therefore is neither timeless nor changeless. It has a past (prior to Christ's incarnation). It has a present (the intermediate Heaven where believers go when they die). It has a future (the eternal New Heaven and New Earth)" Alcorn, pg 41-42. What do you think of this?

4. These two passages stand in stark contrast to what happens to those who have trusted in Christ as Savior and those who have rejected Him as their Savior. Read and discuss these two destinations. What motivates you to bring as many with you to Heaven as you possibly can? Revelation 20:14-15, 21:1-3

5. Jesus told a parable (a story to make a point) about a man named Lazarus. To support the argument that when you go to Heaven you are not a spirit just floating on a cloud, what physical properties are associated with the two main characters in this parable who have died? *NOTE: *There are problems with a strictly literal interpretation of this passage, because for one, nowhere else in Scripture is it suggested that people in Heaven and Hell talk to each other. But this story/parable does give us some insights into the possible physical nature of those in Intermediate Heaven (between now and the New Heaven, New Earth). Luke 16:19-31*

5. What is there to look forward to about Heaven? Read these passages first and discuss. Revelation 21:3-7, 9-27; 21:1-5.

TO DO:

1. Who do you want to go with you? List, Love, Pray, Share.

2. Has your view of Heaven changed in some way?