

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of April 21, 2024

CHECK-IN (~20 minutes)

How was your week? What was the high part of your week? What was the low part of your week? What can we celebrate together?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week, Pastor Brian continued our new messages series on Heaven. In his message, he discusses the concept of Heaven in two parts: the present Heaven and the future Heaven. The present Heaven, referred to as the "Here and Now," is an intermediate state where believers go upon death, distinct from the final destination of the New Heaven and New Earth. Pastor Brian gives us biblical descriptions of the different heavens and addresses questions about life in the present Heaven, including whether it is a physical place, what our bodies will look like, and what life will be like there.

GROUP DISCUSSION (~50 minutes)

1. Thinking back to the message this week, was there anything that challenged you personally? Share your thoughts with the group.

2. *Read Hebrews 8:1; Revelation 21:1-3*

How does understanding the present Heaven as an intermediate state affect our perspective on life after death? Share your thoughts with the group.

3. In his message this week, Pastor Brian mentioned the possibility of remembering life on Earth and being aware of events happening on Earth from the present Heaven. How do passages like Revelation 6:9-11 and Luke 16:19-31 support this idea?

4. *Read Revelation 21:4*

Pastor Brian talked about the perspective of happiness in Heaven based on perspective rather than ignorance. How does this perspective impact our understanding of the relationship between Heaven and Earth, particularly in terms of suffering and sorrow?

5. Read 1 John 5:13

Pastor Brian emphasized the importance of living with eternity in mind. How does, or how should this mindset influence our daily decisions and priorities as believers?

WRAP-UP (~10 minutes)

It is important to be growing in our relationship with Jesus and one another - what is one next step you can take this week to grow? Share with the group and commit to holding one another accountable.

What does it look like to hold each other accountable? It can be as simple as a text or phone call during the week. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to meet regularly and to encourage one another on a regular basis.

Example: “Hey ____, you indicated in group this week that you were struggling at work with being light in a dark place. You said that your next step was to start a conversation with someone at work this week around the topic of faith. How did that go?”

PERSONAL NOTES

This week, my next step is:

This week I am going to check in on (name):

This week, my Bible reading will be (e.g. Philippians chapters 1-4):