

# Community Group Discussion Questions

“Heaven, Yes” Luke 23:43 March 10/11

## Getting Started

The fear of what happens after death has caused people to live daily in doubt and dismay, but there is a hope found in the promise of Jesus from the cross that not only applied to the thief on the cross, but to you as well.

Make a list of the top 5 things people fear most (Clowns? Snakes? Spiders? Death? Speaking in public?...)

If you had to describe the thing you fear the most, what would it be?

## Going Deeper

- V. Paradise is Deliverance: “today”  
Key Scripture: Revelation 21:4, 22-27

No matter what you are facing in health, finances, relationships, or how difficult your life has been, there will come a day when you are delivered from all of it. Even as you lay on your deathbed someday, you will have this promise from Jesus to cling to. “Today, you will be with me in paradise.” **What does this truth mean to you?**

- VI. Paradise is Immortality: “be”  
a. Great Exchange: 1 Cor. 15:50-58  
b. Great Event(s): 1 Thess. 4:13-18, Revelation 20:7-10

Some think that when we die, we will cease to exist, but the Bible promises us a very different reality. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-8. What do these verses promise us?**

VII. Paradise is Security: “I”

- a. 4 Gardens: Eden, Gethsemane, Tomb, Paradise
- b. 1 Goal: Revelation 21:3

In contemporary society, security systems can involve armed guards, door and window alarms, dogs, motion sensors, and lasers. In ancient times, especially in the city of Babylon, there existed a place called the ‘Hanging Gardens’ and this was a place of incredible beauty, filled with plants, vibrant colors, running water, and singing birds. It was also surrounded by a tall wall. ‘Paradise’ means ‘a wall around.’ It was a protected garden where undesirables were kept out and only the chosen were allowed in. How is this ‘paradise’ a good picture of the reality of heaven? (Think of how it compares to the Garden of Eden...)

Thanks to cartoons and movies, many picture heaven as a place where we sit on clouds and play harps. Yet, Jesus reminds us that we will dwell with God, and He Himself will be with us. Heaven is not an eternal nap, or eternal harp concert, but an eternity of being in relationship with Jesus.

What are a few of the questions you will want to ask Jesus when you spend time with Him?

What would you like to hear Him say about you?

VIII. Paradise is Expectancy: “will”

- a. His Promise: Rev. 22:12, 20
- b. My Perspective: Matt. 24:36, Philippians 3:20
- c. Our Power: Revelation 12:10-11

We don’t know when Jesus will return, but we know that Heaven is our Home and that He invites us to join Him there. He guarantees it. Is there anyone here who needs to confirm your reservation? 😊 Or, would anyone like to share how you **know** you’ll be there someday?

### **Prayer Requests**

This is a very big and exciting topic to study. For those who have questions about Heaven, the book “*Heaven*” by Randy Alcorn, is an excellent resource.