



Nowhere does the Bible speak of going to heaven, but from start to finish the Bible tells the story of heaven coming. It is God's grand redemption plan from ages past, and it changes how we deal with the present when we know that Home is Coming!

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Rick began by reminding us that *"We all feel the tension of having to adjust to our current reality while longing for a different reality."* This was true for Paul as well. **Read Philippians 1:21-24.** What stands out to you from Paul's words? Follow up: What has this present crisis made you long for?

2 LET'S LONG FOR... what we're made for. As Christians we live in the world, but we are not of the world. How should we embrace this tension in the meantime? Follow up: **Read Colossians 3:1-2.** How exactly does a person set their mind on the realities of heaven? What specific practices or disciplines help you keep focused on the eternal?

3 As followers of Jesus we should not settle for *"it is what it is."* Something within our spirit should yearn for *"what ought to be."* In what ways are you sometimes tempted to settle for the way things are in this world? Follow up: **Read Romans 8:22-23.** How do these verses encourage you to remember the future glory you are heading to? How does that transform your view of life?

4 WE LONG FOR... a release from fallenness. Rick reminded us that *"We have never known a reality without the presence of evil and suffering."* In what ways has that made our world seem "normal" even though it shouldn't? **Read 2 Corinthians 1:21-22.** How does the Holy Spirit help us remember that we were not designed to live in this kind of world? Follow up: Rick went on to say, *"But my yearning*

is not just to be released from the fallenness in creation; it is to be delivered from the brokenness in me." How has that been true for you?

5 WE LONG FOR... a removal of loneliness. God said it is not good for man to be alone, and this was before sin corrupted His creation. Why is it significant that heaven is called a "city" 15 times in the last two chapters of the Bible (also see **Hebrews 13:14**)? What has the current situation taught you about the importance of community?

6 WE LONG FOR... a return of closeness. We were created for extreme intimacy with God, and of all the things we lost when we lost Eden, closeness with God was the worst (see **Isaiah 59:2**). With that in mind, how do the words from **Revelation 21:2-3** and **22:3-4** bring you hope and encouragement?

7 Read 2 Corinthians 4:18. Let's ask for what we long for. Rick closed by reminding us that *"Jesus taught us to pray for the kingdom to come, for things to be on earth like they are in heaven."* He went on to say, *"The prayer is more than a petition; it is an offering. We are asking God to use us to give the world a foretaste of heaven."* Share some examples of how you've seen this lived out recently. Follow up: What is one specific thing you can do this week to give the world a foretaste of heaven? Spend some time praying for God to use us to bring more of heaven to earth.

