

I Can Only Imagine

Bible Story: I Can Only Imagine (Heaven/All Things New) • *Revelation 21:3-5a*

Bottom Line: Following Jesus will turn out greater than you can imagine.

Key Question: What do you think heaven will be like?

Memory Verse: *God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift.* Ephesians 2:8 (NIRV)

Life App: Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Small Group

Discussion Questions

- What would it be like to not have any sadness, pain, or anything bad happening to you?
- What else do you think heaven will have or not have?
- What part of heaven do you hope for the most? What are you really hoping is true of heaven or what would you be most excited about?
- Is there anything about heaven that makes you nervous? What would that be?

Verse to Take with You

What You Do:

- **Open** the Bible and read John 14:2-4 aloud.
- **Discuss:** What is Jesus talking about in this passage? What is He preparing?
 - When someone prepares for you—maybe prepares for you to visit or to have dinner or prepares for a party on your behalf, what does it tell you about your relationship with that person? (When you prepare you communicate worth, value, and importance.)
- **Emphasize** that Jesus is doing that for us—He wants to be with us forever, so He has gone to prepare a place for us!

WHAT DO YOU THINK HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE?

DAY 5

After the author of Revelation tells us what He saw in his vision of Heaven, the One sitting on the throne says,

"Write this down. You can trust these words. They are true."

Revelation 21:5b, NIV

This verse tells us the most important part of having faith—you can trust what God says. You can trust that Jesus is His One and only Son, sent to earth so that we could be in God's family forever. When we are faced with something hard or something confusing, we can have faith and trust in God. We can follow Jesus. We can know that no matter what, God loves us and Jesus wants to have a relationship with us.

There are already ways following God has helped your life. Think of one person you can talk to about the ways following God has turned out greater than you imagined. Tell them about Him, about His love, and about how following God is the best choice you've ever made.

FAITH

TRUSTING IN WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE
BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU CAN SEE

DAY 1

Go to Studio252.tv and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show. (Click on Fun2Watch! then The So & So Show.)

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

SO & SO TOP 3

After watching, write one thing that . . .

1) YOU LIKED: _____

2) YOU LEARNED: _____

3) YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW: _____

DAY 2

READ REVELATION 21:3-5A

The book we're reading from this week is called Revelation. Revelation basically means *made known*. And in the book of Revelation, we uncover many truths about what heaven is like. Check out what Revelation says about heaven:

"... God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God." Revelation 21:3, NIV

We learn one important fact about heaven: **GOD WILL BE THERE**. He will actually live with us in Heaven. He will be our God—meaning, He will be in charge. That sounds amazing, right?

We're going to talk a lot about heaven this week. Before we get there, think about this . . .

If you could ask one question about heaven, what would it be?

DAY 3

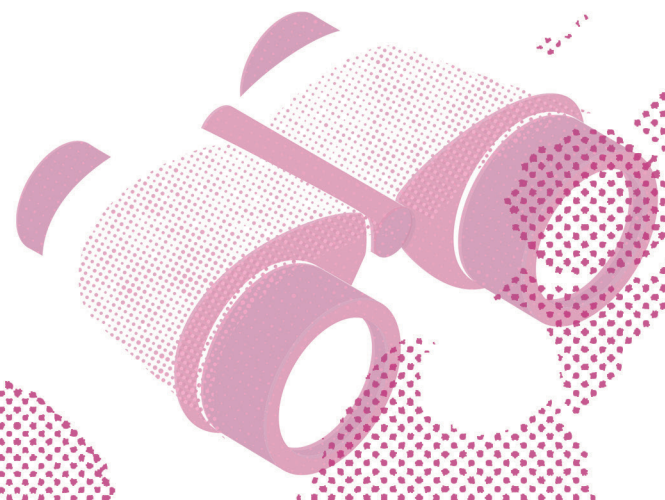
One of the most important ways to following Jesus is to talk to Him. He wants you to tell Him everything—even ask Him questions.

Look at your question from yesterday. **Spend a few minutes praying to God, telling Him you're curious about heaven.** Tell Him you want to know more about it—more about Him.

DAY 4

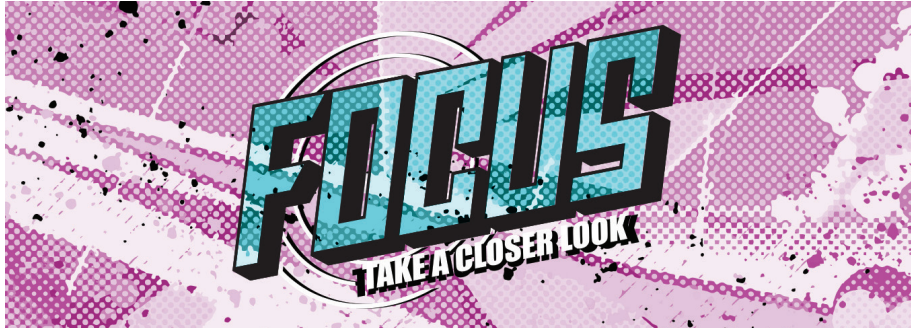
Following Jesus will turn out greater than you can imagine. It's true! Do you know someone who is following Jesus right now? Take some time to talk to that person. If you can't do it in person, you can text, email, or even video call them. Ask them all the ways that following Jesus has been good—even great—for them.

If you have time, ask them what they think about heaven. What will it be like? Compare what they think to what you think!



JULY 2020

PRETEEN



WEEK FOUR

HEAVEN • REVELATION 21:3-5A



ASK THIS:

WHAT DO YOU THINK
HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE?



REMEMBER THIS:

"God's grace has saved
you because of your faith in
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EPHESIANS 2:8, NIV



DO THIS:



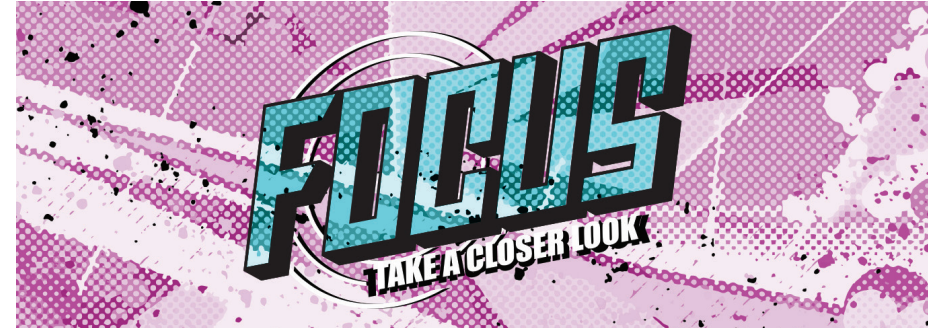
Ask your preteen if they ever
think about heaven. If they do,
what do they think it will be like.
Encourage them to be creative.

FAITH:

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE FUTURE THERAPIST OF MY CHILDREN

By Jon Acuff

Dear therapist who may one day be counseling my children,

There are two things I need to say right out of the gate:

1. I tried my best.
2. I hope you have a sound machine.

The second point is more of a personal preference rather than a revelation. Having gone to counseling myself, I appreciate when a therapist has some sort of sound machine that makes you feel like you're at the beach. Gentle electronic waves lapping against the shore tend to help you forget you're actually in a strip mall off the highway. The second point is easy to address, the first point is a little more detailed.

I did try my best as a parent, but I know my kids are going to have many, many things to tell you about someday. They will sit on a couch and regale you with stories from their childhoods. Some will make you laugh. We put a high price on humor in our family, and laughter often filled the halls of our home.

Some stories will be gross. Ask them about the time we thought a squirrel had died within our walls. Turns out it was a year-old ostrich egg that had cracked undetected in a decorative bowl. The smell was like getting punched in the face by a vengeful bird from another continent.

Other stories will not be as funny, and you will quickly discover something I had to

admit a few years into the adventure of parenting. I am not perfect. I tried to be for the first few years. I promise I did. But all too often . . .

I was impatient with my kids.
I lost my temper over things that didn't really matter.

I discouraged when I should have encouraged, or encouraged when I should have been more realistic.
I gave them bad advice.

I took some things too seriously and others too casually.
I chased after my work instead of after them.
I was on the road traveling for business, trying to be somebody when I already was somebody . . . A dad. A father. And in this case, a launch pad for some therapist's new boat.

Tell my kids I love them. That I'm so proud I got to be their dad. Tell them parenting involves a lot of mistakes, and forgiveness, and messiness, and laughter. Tell them I'll pick up the bill for your work—which I assume might be high, depending on the quality of sound machine you've got.

Sincerely,

A not-so-perfect parent.

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