

SEPTEMBER 27 - NOVEMBER 1 | NEXT STEPS

# IMAGINE HEAVEN

NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES, GOD'S PROMISES  
AND THE EXHILARATING FUTURE THAT AWAITS YOU

## The Most Beautiful Place

Perhaps the most common theme from NDEs is experiencing a beauty that fills the soul and is hard to put into words. People who get a glimpse of the world to come encounter a majesty that is beyond their ability to fully comprehend, but that draws them in to desire more. It turns out that this heavenly world is the one that the Bible has been pointing to all along. Work through the following questions on your own, and get together with your running partner, life group, or family around the dinner table and talk through your answers.

### Discussion Questions

1. What is a place that you've only seen pictures of, but would love to visit in person?
2. Did any of the images shared in the NDEs from this week's message connect with you, and why do you think that connection was made?
3. How have the stories shared in this series changed your view of the life to come?
4. In Romans 8:19-22, the author describes our current world as subject to a curse, but yearning for future glory. How do you see this reality playing out in your daily life?
5. Hebrews 11:13-16 talks about people who agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here in this life. Does this feeling resonate with you? Why or why not?
6. This passage in Hebrews also talks about how God is not ashamed of people who remain faithful in believing promises that remain far off. How are you doing in this area, and what do you think would help you to believe God for things that seem "far off?"
7. Many NDE stories talk about how exhilarating it is to be in God's presence. Is this something you feel like you've experienced to a small extent in your life, or is this type of experience still foreign? What do you think would help you experience more of God's presence?

### Key Scriptures

All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth...they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:13-16 (NLT)

For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Romans 8:19-22 (NLT)

### Digging Deeper

The spiritual world that exists just beyond what we can see shows how God is preparing a place for His children that is not as different from our current world as you might think. One great place to study more is at <http://lifegroup.gatewaychurch.com/be-transformed/worship-god>.

Note: The Next Steps for Relationships In Heaven contained an error. Question 6 should read "upgraded 2.0 body" not "resurrected body." We apologize for any confusion or misunderstanding.