

STONEBRIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Note to the Host: *Thanks for leading your group, creating community, and caring for your people! Remember, this is your group, and you have the freedom to navigate the conversation that best fits your group's dynamic. People come first!*

ICEBREAKER:

In his popular song *Imagine*, John Lennon proposes that we, “Imagine there's no heaven. It's easy if you try. No hell below us. Above us, only sky.” The goal of the message is to “Imagine all the people, living life in peace.” The message sounds great, but like many secular works we should look deeper. Is it true? Is it for me?

TALK IT OVER:

These questions are based on the sermon that took place on Sunday. Feel free to revisit any of the scripture that was discussed in the message. Answer as many questions as your time allows; don't feel pressed to get through them all!

Introduction

1. The song *Imagine* of course has the laudable goal of promoting unity among mankind. Looking deeper, does denying heaven provide real hope, or does it just focus on the here and now? Explain.
2. What do you think of when you think of heaven?

Bible Text

John 10:10

Revelation 21:1-8

Matthew 25:21

Matthew 8:12

John 5:24

3. After reading the passages above, explain what kind of life Jesus intends for us and can bring to us.
4. If our plight were just life on earth with nothing after, how do you think that outlook would adversely affect our sense of morality and responsibility for each other, as opposed to simply looking out for ourselves in the here and now? Explain.
5. Based on Revelation 21:1-8, explain in your own words what heaven will be like.
6. Jesus' first miracle, and the start of his ministry, was at a wedding banquet (John 2:1-11). Matthew 25:21 describes heaven as a celebration. What insight do these verses give us into the atmosphere of heaven?
7. Explain how Matthew 8:12 describes hell.

Application

8. Based on John 5:24, how would you explain the way to heaven? Is there someone God has put on your heart that needs to hear the message of salvation? How can you share this message, in words and deeds?
9. Do you want to imagine there is no heaven? What could you imagine instead (hint, see lyrics from MercyMe below)?

"I can only imagine
What it will be like
When I walk by Your side
I can only imagine
What my eyes would see
When Your face is before me
I can only imagine"

PRAYER:

Please don't stress about the time of prayer, pray however your group feels comfortable. This can either be one person pray, or you can go in a circle and have each person pray a few sentences. Be sure to change it up so your prayer time stays fresh in your group!

- Make sure that everyone has a chance to share!
- Encourage all praise reports! Celebrate what God has done!
- Have someone record and distribute the requests to your group, to pray over throughout the week.

Week #2, God We Need to Talk, March 10, 2024