

Heaven Can Wait?

John 14:1-6 (ESV)

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- Satan's goal is to keep us infatuated with this fallen world instead of captivated with our heavenly home.

Revelation 13:6 (ESV)

It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

1. Heaven is a physical place.

2. Heaven is a desirable place.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (ESV)

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"— ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

Philippians 1:23 (ESV)

I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

3. Heaven is heaven because of who is there.

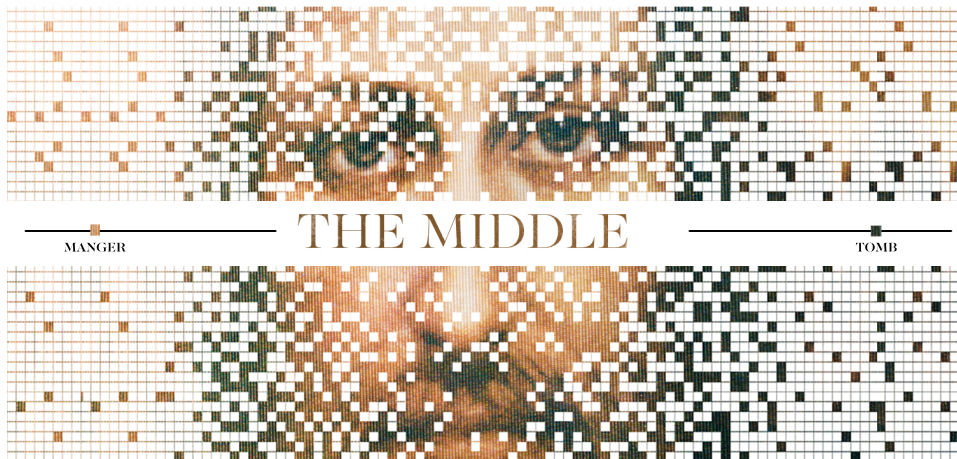
Revelation 21:3 (ESV)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

4. Heaven is not our default position. (Matthew 7:13-14; Romans 3:23)

Summary Statements of Christianity:

- A. Everyone is welcome. (Romans 10:13)
- B. Everyone gets in the same way. (John 14:6)
- C. Everyone can meet the requirement. (John 3:16)
- D. Anyone who goes to hell does so over Jesus' dead body. (2 Peter 3:9)



JESUS THE WAY TO THE FATHER

JOHN 14:1-18

#NVSTORYSHARE

CONNECT THE STORY

What happened in our last story? What key principles or truths did we discover through the story of Jesus washing the disciples feet? Can someone retell the story?

TELL THE STORY

Tell the story: as best as you can, do not stop and teach, try not to make points (Commentary), just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY

As a group: chronologically rebuild the story from memory. Ask questions if necessary. Like – “What happened first?”, “What happened next?”, “Did we leave out anything?” Finally, have participants look at their Bibles and see if anything was added or left out of the story as they go through it one more time.

ASK QUESTIONS

- Where do you see yourself in this story?
- What do we learn about Jesus/God in this story?
- What do we learn about man in this story?
- What is Jesus teaching you personally through this story?
- What application/adjustment do you need to make in your life due to the truth discovered in this story?

ADULTS

- What is the closest near death experience that you have had? What kind of thoughts did you have in that moment?
- When Jesus said I am the life....what could he be referring to?
- What does it say about us that the very Spirit of God dwells within us?
- How do we train ourselves to hear from the Spirit of God?

COLLEGE

- If a friend asked you how to get to God or how to become a Christian, how would you respond?
- Has there ever been a time in your life where it was hard to believe because you were like Phillip and wanted to SEE the Father?
- Vs. 16 talks about Jesus giving us an Advocate. What/who is He referring to and what is the role of the Advocate?
- The Holy Spirit is a powerful person on our side, working for us and with us. When have you experienced the Holy Spirit act as your comforter, encourager, or counselor?

STUDENT

- If you were to ask one of your classmates how someone gets to heaven, how do you think they would respond?
- As a Christian is it important to believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven? Why or why not?

CHILDREN

- Older Child – When we love Jesus, how does our life change?
- Older Child – Are there other ways to have a relationship with God other than through believing and putting your faith in Jesus? Discuss.
- Younger Child – When we love Jesus, how does our life change?
- Younger Child – How can we know who God is since we cannot see him?

KINDERGARTEN/PRESCHOOL

- Where did Jesus say He was going?
- What was He going to do?
- Thomas asked how they would know the way. What did Jesus say?
- Who is with Jesus? And who is Jesus with?

THE MIDDLE

MY
TIME
WITH
GOD

MONDAY

READ JOHN 14:1-11.

What does Jesus mean in referring to Himself as the Way? Truth? Life? How would these truths have encouraged His disciples at that moment? How might Jesus' claim at the end of verse 7 been received by faithful Jews during Jesus' day? Why? As staggering as Jesus' claim to be the exclusive way to the Father was, His statement "you do know Him and have seen Him" must have been even more staggering to the disciples. The Jews taught that no one had seen God at any time (see John 1:18); the Greeks claimed that God was invisible. Jesus asserted that if anyone knew Him and saw Him, that person had known God and seen God.

TUESDAY

What do you think Jesus meant by the phrase, "I am in the Father and the Father is in Me"? What evidence do we have that Jesus' words are true? Philip and the disciples were called to believe Jesus as well as to believe in Him. The grounds of belief are two-fold: first is Jesus' declaration, and second is the evidence of Jesus' power. There is a call to recognize the miracles as signs pointing to Jesus' deity. Believers have ample reason to be confident in Christ because His words reveal God's truth and His works reveal God's power.

WEDNESDAY

How would you explain the Trinity to someone from another faith?

Christians believe that Jesus, one of the members of the Trinity, is fully God and fully man at the same time. Why is it important in Christianity to believe that Jesus is God? Can you think of any places in the Bible that teach the divinity of Jesus? The belief in the divinity of Jesus is incredibly important in Christianity. It's what separates the Leader of our religion from any other religion. Though some might argue that the early Christians did not believe Jesus to be God, we will see in our study that this belief has been central since the very beginning of Christianity.

THE MIDDLE

MY
TIME
WITH
GOD

THURSDAY

READ JOHN 1:1, JOHN 8:58, JOHN 10:30, JOHN 20:28

One of the primary reasons John wrote the Book of John was to show that Jesus is God. To John and the early disciples, this fact was of the utmost importance; in fact, it was and is essential to what we believe as Christians. Why does the fact that Jesus is God matter? Why is it essential that someone believe in Jesus' divinity in order to be a Christian? What would some of the implications be if Jesus were not fully God? The implications for us are enormous if we do not believe in the divinity of Jesus. Because Jesus claims to be God, if He is not God, then He is a mad man. That means every word from the mouth of Jesus can be trusted only if Jesus was and is God. If, on the other hand, we believe what Jesus says about Himself, it means that we can know everything we need to know about God by looking to Jesus.

FRIDAY

Based on today's study, how would you respond to someone who believes Jesus is a great teacher but not truly God? Is there anywhere else other than Jesus you are looking in order to know God? What is one way you can fix your eyes on Jesus alone as the fullness of God in bodily form? How does your worship need to change in order to more fully reflect Jesus' divinity?

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."
John 14:1