

Believe Series  
“Eternity”  
What happens next?

*“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?”*

John 14:1-2 (NLT)

**We believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus will return to judge all people and to establish his eternal kingdom.**

**What happens one minute after we die?**

*Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores.*

*“Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. The rich man also died and was buried, and he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.*

*“The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’*

*“But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’*

*“Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home. For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don’t end up in this place of torment.’*

Luke 16:19-28 (NLT)

**Jesus is coming back.**

*And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.*

*We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NLT)

**A new heaven and a new earth.**

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.*

*I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”*

*And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.”*

Revelation 21:1-5 (NLT)

**SO WHAT?**

**If you died tonight, where would you go?**

**If you wake up tomorrow, where will you go and how will you live?**

## **Live with hope.**

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”*

Revelation 21:4 (NLT)

## **Love with boldness.**

*Three things will last forever - faith, hope, and love - and the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT)

## **Lead people to Jesus.**

*Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.*

John 14:6 (NLT)

## **What do you believe?**

## **Growth Group Questions**

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

### ***Read Believe Chapter 10: Eternity.***

1. When was the first time you seriously considered your mortality and what happens after death? Why?
2. What hinders you (or others) from believing in the afterlife?
3. Re-read Luke 16:22-23. This passage describes two separate places after death. Why do you think some people struggle with the Idea of hell?
4. Re- read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Who are some people you look forward to being reunited with in Heaven?

How does this affect the way you look at death of the people you love?

5. Re-read Revelation 21:1-5. As you read this passage how do you imagine a new heaven and a new earth?
6. As you consider eternal life in the new earth without the presence of sin, hatred, strife, war, or death, what do you most look forward to?
7. How does having a secured future in heaven affect the way you live your life in the present?

Which of the three So What statements do you struggle with most and why?