

## **Life Group Topic #15**

### **Heaven**

**WELCOME:** (15 minutes)

If you could change one thing about your life in this world, what would it be? Why?

**WORSHIP:** (15 minutes)

Use whatever means possible to turn the group's attention to the wonder and majesty of our God- including music, prayer, meditation on the Psalms, and other art forms.

**WORD APPLICATION:** (45 minutes)

During our years in the Czech Republic, we soon realized the impact of Soviet Communism on the people who surrounded us. 40 years of atheistic ideology meant that the younger generation simply assumed God was an outdated fable of the past. They grew up in an environment in their homes, schools and cities where it was understood that there simply was no spiritual beings, no afterlife, nothing beyond the grave.

What particularly struck me was how this affected day to day life in Czech society. With nothing beyond the material world in which they lived, there was really nothing to live for beyond themselves. What we saw around us was the unabashed pursuit of personal pleasure, wealth and self-glory; and all that with no sense that there was anything wrong with this picture.

Jesus couldn't stop talking about heaven. It became clear that anyone who followed Him would enter the Kingdom of God, which was both present, but clearly also a future and certain hope. Strangely enough, in our present world, we as followers of Christ, can easily drift away from a heart that treasures heaven. We get so wrapped into our present world that our hearts become enraptured with it. In fact if a Czech atheist should move into our neighbourhood, and watch the way we live- would they find our pursuits markedly different from their own?

Read audibly and then silently as a group: **Luke 16:19-31 and Revelation 21:1-10, 22-27.**

As you meditate on these verses, share the things the Holy Spirit impresses on your minds and hearts. Minister to each other, challenge each other, ask the tough questions of each other. If you need some application questions to stimulate conversation.....

**Word Application Questions:**

1. What do we learn in Luke 16 about heaven and hell?
2. Notice what Abraham says in verse 26 about the great chasm fixed between heaven and hell. What are the implications for us as we think about the people in our present day world?
3. Many people in the impoverished countries of Asia and Africa dream of living in North America. They would do anything for a future home here. How is the heaven described in Revelation different from the luxuries of life in Canada?
4. Revelation 20:14-15, 21:8 also talk about the reality of hell. Why is it an important part of NT teaching? What difference should it make to us?

5. There is evidence in the NT that Christians longed for the appearing of Jesus, they yearned for heaven. Negro spiritual songs and the music of the persecuted church is permeated with a longing of our true home in heaven. Would that be true of us today? Why or why not?
6. What are the barriers in our present day culture from a heart that longs for heaven and that stores up treasure there? What might God be saying to us today about removing this barriers ?

**WITNESS: (15 minutes): Soul Cravings**

This section is a vision-casting time designed to get the group strategizing and making concrete plans towards reaching outward to a lost world. The eternal destinies of our friends and neighbours are hanging in the balance. Soul Cravings booklets and the training DVDs are available at the church office.