

~~Better.~~ Better Home

Hebrews 11:13-16: 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. Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. But 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.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

When we hear the word home it brings to mind so many wonderful images. Jesus called Heaven his home—“my father’s house”. Many faithful men and women in Israel’s history never lost their trust in God’s assurances of better things to come because of their hope of Heaven. God’s word is rich with promises, allowing us to look forward to eternal life in Heaven because of Jesus’ sacrifice. Life can be full of trouble but have peace in your heart knowing that God has prepared a place that is incomparably glorious...a Better Home.

Read Hebrews 11:13-16:

1A) What were those who died in faith looking for? (v16)

1B) PERSONAL: Are you discouraged because the achievement of your goal seems far away? How can you grow your faith in this area?

The REALITY of a Heavenly Home

2A) What do you learn about Heaven from the following verses?

Hebrews 11:16b

John 14:1-4

2 Corinthians 12:1-4

2B) PERSONAL: Knowing that all of scripture is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16), how do these verses influence your faith that Heaven is a real place?

The IMMORTALITY of a Heavenly Home

Read 1 Corinthians 15:46-58:

3A) Paul reveals a wonderful secret about what will happen to our bodies in this letter to the Corinthians. Summarize what you learn about this.

3B) PERSONAL: We all face limitations, whether physical, emotional or mental. How is your faith impacted knowing that our spiritual body in heaven will not get sick, will never be weak, and will never die?

The ETERNITY of a Heavenly Home

4A) Define eternity.

4B) PERSONAL: Given the brevity of life here on earth and considering loved ones who have passed, what does an eternal life in Heaven mean to you?

The AVAILABILITY of a Heavenly Home

5A) According to these verses, who does God want to join him in Heaven?

5B) PERSONAL: How are you sharing Jesus with others so that no one gets left behind?

6) PERSONAL: It can be difficult to truly imagine what Heaven will be like. Given this week's theme of a Better Home and the feelings that arise when you think of your home, begin to envision Heaven as a home. This is a place you will live for eternity, with God and Jesus and loved ones available to you. Describe how you picture Heaven.

ACT: Perhaps you have thought a lot about Heaven. Maybe not much at all. The fact of the matter is, we are on this earth for a very short time. We can't live here forever. What a hopeless existence we would have in this temporal life if we did not have faith in God's promise of an eternal home. Take courage from the faithful mentioned in the book of Hebrews, for they lived and died without seeing the fruit of their faith, yet they never stopped believing. Whatever you prioritize as the focus of your life, Jesus Christ is better. Give yourself wholeheartedly to Christ, knowing He has a place reserved for you with him in Heaven.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- Every day this week read about the promise that Jesus offers for our eternal heavenly homeland.

Monday:

Philippians 3:20-21 ESV

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Tuesday:

John 14:1-4 NIV

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Wednesday:

Revelation 21:1-4 ESV

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Thursday:

1 Peter 1:3-5 ESV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Friday:

Philippians 3:20 NLT

But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

Saturday:

John 10:27-30 NLT

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.

Sunday:

Colossians 3:1-4 NLT

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your[a]life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

