

# What happens when you die?

Revelation 21:1-4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Luke 23:43 Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Luke 16:23 In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

Revelation 20:13-14 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Revelation 22:12 “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

In John’s vision he sees the final habitation of Christians and God. What can you tell about this place from Revelation 21:1-4?

## But before that...

The Bible tells of several events that happen before we exist in “a new heaven and earth” (Christ’s second coming, the Rapture, etc.). Where do we exist until then?

Believers await the resurrection of the body in (Luke 23:43): \_\_\_\_\_

Paradise: Persian word *PAIRIDAEZA* means: “walled garden,” or “enclosed park.”  
Greek term means “garden of Eden.”

Unbelievers, like the rich man in the story of Lazarus (Luke 16:23) are sent to: \_\_\_\_\_  
What is hell like?

Read the story of Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31 in your Bible. In verse 23 Lazarus is said to be standing by Abraham. In some translations Lazarus is said to be in Abraham’s *bosom*. If we consider Jesus’ description in a non-literal way, what would being in Abraham’s bosom be like?

Our faith determines where we will go when we die. This is sometimes called the “Judgment of Faith.” It is not about how we lived our lives but what rather what Christ has done for us.

Before we enter the *new heaven* described in Revelation 21:1 we face a second judgment told of in Revelation 20:13-14.  
This is a judgment of our \_\_\_\_\_ .

In view of 2 Corinthians 5:10, what bearing do our deeds in this life have on our lives in heaven? When do we get these rewards?

Rewards are not the best part of being in heaven is who we will be with.  
Who is that? \_\_\_\_\_

# Lesson Plan: What happens when you die?

## The Goal:

The kids are ready for more than the simple answer -heaven. While this is true the Bible indicates there are several stages or events that take place before we arrive in the *final* heaven. Junior highers and high school kids are eager for more details.

## Preparation:

Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind.

Write possible answers on your copy of the worksheet along with additional notes of things you'd like to bring up.

## Pre-Lesson Activity:

If you have time, and you own the game, play Apple-to-Apples. Each person has a chance to be the *judge*. Being judged is a main word used in the lesson.

## Leading the lesson:

Have a kid read the first set of verses. Make sure they understand all of the words and the meaning of the verse. You may have to restate the verse in your own words. You'll need to have a Bible handy to read the story of Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31. Choose your best reader so as not to embarrass anyone.

Ask the questions of the matching color. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers. If your group is younger teens have them fill in the blanks. If your group is mainly high school age just use the questions as discussion starters.

When you discuss Lazarus being in Abraham's *bosom* have some fun explaining what a bosom is but help them understand that this verse is describing something like being *hugged* very close by someone they love very much.

For awhile also consider with the kids that your faith gets you into heaven but your actions in this life have an impact on your rewards.

## Summary:

Finish by talking about being in heaven with God/Jesus. Whenever Jesus was asked to describe "the kingdom of heaven" he always used a simile. I believe this is because it's grandness is beyond our comprehension. But exactly what heaven is like is for another lesson. For this lesson we can consider it a place like the garden of Eden before the *fall*.

## Take Prayer Requests:

Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Ask them about their concerns from the previous week. Write down specific concerns so you can follow up with them.