



When We All Get to Heaven

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 November 17, 2024

“Defining ‘Good’”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You that this life is not the end. Thank You for making a way for us, through Jesus, to spend an eternal life with You. Holy Spirit, reveal to us the ways we are living with a short-term perspective. We want to do Your will here while we're on earth. Teach us how to live with eternity in mind. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Romans 3:10 (NIV)

“There is no one righteous, not even one”

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 15:3-7 (NIV)

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

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INTRODUCTION

The belief that “good people go to heaven” sounds nice on the surface. But it doesn’t make sense. When Jesus came to this earth, he raised the standard of ‘good enough’ so high that everyone fell short. One thing that puts everyone on an even playing field in life is that Jesus said when you sin against someone that God loves, you sin against God. Since all of us have mistreated other people in our lives, this makes us all sinners separated from God.

By Jesus' definition, we've all sinned and we all know it. That is the bad news. The good news is that Jesus came and paid for our sin. Jesus said good people don't go to heaven; he said *forgiven* people go to heaven. Jesus invites us to transfer our trust from our effort to his sacrificial death for our sin.

QUESTIONS

1. Growing up, were you taught that good people are the ones who go to heaven? If so, explain how it was presented to you. Do you still feel that way?
2. Read Romans 3:10 (on page 1) and Romans 3:23 (also on page 1). What stands out to you about those two verses? Aren't there any good people in the world? How can that be true in light of those passages?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3–7 (on page 1) where Paul is writing to Jesus followers in the city of Corinth. What key words or phrases stand out to you and why? In one sentence, how would you summarize what Paul is saying about Jesus in these verses?
4. If someone asked what you are trusting in to get to heaven, what would you say? Why would you say that?

FINAL APPLICATION

If you have never put your trust in Christ, pray the following prayer this week. If you already have put your faith in Christ, rededicate your life to Christ this week.

Heavenly Father, I have mistreated people you love. I have sinned. I don't just need to do better. I need forgiveness. I need a savior. I accept Jesus as my savior. I'm no longer trusting in my goodness. I'm trusting in your undeserved goodness for me. I accept Jesus' death as the once-and-for-all payment for my sin, Amen.