

**ANSWERS FOR
THE AFTERLIFE**
**The Truth about Heaven
and Your Place in It**

Mark J Musser Books
All Rights Reserved
2015

SPECIAL THANKS TO

God who guides my steps and to my wife
and son who put up with my missteps.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[INTRODUCTION](#)

[THERE IS A HEAVEN](#)
[ONE WAY TO HEAVEN](#)
[HEAVEN IS OUR HOME](#)

[CONCLUSION](#)

[APPENDIX](#)

[APPENDIX A – STILL IN PRISON?](#)
[APPENDIX B –LEADING A CHILD TO CHRIST](#)
[APPENDIX C—BIBLE VERSES ON HEAVEN](#)
[APPENDIX D—Q & A ABOUT HEAVEN](#)

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, I was reading a letter from a friend of mine. In this letter, he was seeking to describe all that was going on the day his ailing father passed into eternity.

My friend, Kenny, was headed to Wilkes-Barre, PA for a meeting. Knowing that his father was in a nearby hospital, Ken was in a constant internal debate. Should he see Dad before the meeting or wait until afterwards?

The car, Ken says, seemed to head towards the hospital on its own.

When he arrived at the hospital, he found his father asleep. Gently, my friend woke him to say that his favorite son was there. (Since Ken is an only child, he felt confident in making that statement!)

After spending some time in conversation, a nurse came in with food. Right at that moment, Ken's dad shook and convulsed. It was a massive heart attack.

The last words my friend spoke to his father were, "I'll see you in Heaven, Dad."

As I read the letter, I stopped at those words. "I'll see you in Heaven." What comfort those words can bring. The idea that there is more to our existence than here, that there is something to look forward to beyond death, is a deep source of hope.

Many, sadly, do not have this comfort nor this hope. They either do not know, or do not believe, that Heaven exists. Or, if they do believe in such a place, they lack any assurance that they will be afforded entrance.

However, the fact is that Heaven is a real place. Whether or not there is a Heaven is not the question. The question is, will you be there the moment after you have taken your last breath on earth?

In the pages that follow, I trust you will catch a glimpse of Heaven's infinite beauty. Moreover, I pray that you will grab hold of the one and only way to get there.

The most important journey of your life begins now.

THERE IS A HEAVEN

We see images on the news of funerals in other lands--lands filled with people who do not know about God and Heaven. These funerals are tragic scenes. Weeping, wailing, and groaning. Hurting, devastated people on the ground sobbing in tears, grabbing their stomachs because the ache of despair is so great.

There is no sense of assurance. There is no hope for more beyond this life.

It doesn't need to be like that. We can have assurance. And not only assurance, but hope. Hope that, as even death draws near, there is nothing to fear.

There's a fictional story about an elderly couple that died in an accident and found themselves standing at the Pearly Gates of Heaven. Peter was there to welcome them and took them inside.

First, he showed them their mansion. The man, overwhelmed by the sheer luxury of it all asked, "How much does this place cost per night?"

The great apostle replied, "Sir, this is Heaven. It doesn't cost anything."

Then Peter took them to the dining room where table upon table was piled high with the most exquisite, delicious foods you could imagine. Again, overwhelmed by the glory of it all, the man asked, "How much for the meals?"

"You forget. This is Heaven. It's all free."

The couple was then taken out back where a fantastically manicured golf course lay before them. As the man stood there open-mouthed, Peter interjected, "Now before you ask. There are no greens fees. This is Heaven, and everything is free."

At that, our elderly friend looked over at his wife and said, "Margaret, confounded you and your bran muffins. I could have been here ten years ago!"

The Reality of Heaven

Besides that story being humorous, it also captures a significant truth about Heaven. It is a place of unbelievable beauty and delight. It is a place we can all anticipate with excitement and joy.

A little girl was taking a walk with her father one evening. As she looked up at the vast sky, at all the twinkling stars and the bright white moon, she exclaimed; "Oh, Daddy, if the wrong side of Heaven is so beautiful, what must the right side be like!?"

In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, the apostle John is given a vision of the "right side of heaven." It is a stunning glimpse of all we can anticipate.

So [an angel] took me in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious stone—like jasper as clear as crystal. The city wall was broad and high, with twelve gates guarded by twelve angels. And the names of the twelve tribes of Israel were written on the gates. There were three gates on each side—east, north,

*south, and west. The wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*¹

The first thing we discover is that God's glory is shining everywhere. Everything is bathed in a majestic glow. Everything glistens like precious gems.

But that is not all. John continues to describe what he sees.

*The angel who talked to me held in his hand a gold measuring stick to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (according to the human standard used by the angel).*²

The second thing we see is that heaven is *huge*! It is big enough to accommodate all who believe.

It is not some small, exclusive resort community. Heaven is a gigantic sprawling metropolis. A metropolis that would measure from Orlando, FL, in the south to Montpelier, VT, in the north. From New York City in the East to Topeka, KS, in the west.

Moreover, it is not only 1400 miles wide and 1400 miles long, it is also 1400 miles high. To give you an idea of how high that is, the International Space Station is circling about 180 miles above the earth. That is a mere 12.8% of 1400!

John is showing us that Heaven was constructed by God to hold as many as possible. With these dimensions, 90,160,000 people could each have ten acres of land on just the first floor of Heaven. That's pretty impressive!

Further, if a standard story is ten feet high, then 1,449,000,000,000 people could have square mile tracts on any of the 739,200 floors!

John is not done.

*The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass. The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve precious stones: the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.*³

Gems beyond distinction adorning gates made from single pearls. That sounds like a place to look forward to!

Heaven is filled with God's glory, a beauty in and of itself. It is huge, built for billions upon billions, and it is unbelievably ornate. This picture of the afterlife should give us hope--even in the face of death.

But how do we reach this inexpressibly amazing place? How can we be assured entrance when our life on earth is over?

Keep reading.

ONE WAY TO HEAVEN

There's a tale told of a man dying and going to Heaven. Upon his arrival, he is informed, "Here's how it works. You need one hundred points to make it in. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I will give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. Should you reach one hundred points, you will get in."

"Okay," the man started confidently, "I was married to the same woman for fifty years and never cheated on her, not even in my heart."

"That's wonderful," the gatekeeper replied, "that's worth three points!"

"Three points?" The man was a bit taken aback, but he had a lot more to tell the doorman. "Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service."

"Terrific!" came the response. "That's certainly worth one point."

"One point? Brother!" The man paused a moment to gather his thoughts. "Okay, how about this? I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic! That's good for another two points."

"Two stinkin' points!" the man cried out in exasperation. "What's a guy gotta do to get in here!?!?"

Smiling broadly, the gatekeeper answered, "To get into Heaven, it's not what you do. It's who you know."

Not Good Enough?

Many people would disagree with the gatekeeper. They are pretty sure that is *not* who you know, but rather what you do. They are convinced that doing good will build up "street credit" in Heaven. Once you hit the magic number of good deeds, all is well. Entrance is assured.

Sounds good, doesn't it? Only there are a few problems with this logic.

First, exactly how much good must you do to earn entrance into Heaven? No one seems to be too sure. Second, how does the bad we do weigh against the good? No one seems too sure how to answer that question either.

Third, who is it precisely that determines what "good" is? Who gets to come up with the definition so we can really know if we are actually doing good or not? Again, no one seems to be jumping in with any solid answers.

So, in the end, we don't know how much good we need to do. We don't know how our bad affects our good, and we don't even know how "good" is defined!

All these unanswered questions leave us uneasy. Instead of living in assurance, we spend our days doubting if we're really good enough and wondering where we'll end up when we die.

In order not to think about these things, we do our best to entertain and distract ourselves. We dislike silence because it causes us to think too deeply.

We shy away from even discussing the topic of death or dying because our uncertainty makes us feel anxious and uncomfortable. It's so much better just to talk about sports, the weather, or the cute puppy video we saw on Facebook.

It doesn't need to be this way.

We can be sure. We can know, without any doubt, where we will be the moment after we take our last breath.

It's Who You Know

In John 14, Jesus and His disciple Thomas have an exchange.

Jesus states, "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? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going."

"No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."⁴

Did you catch all of that?

Jesus says, "I am the way." We enter Heaven through Him. Jesus says, "I am the truth." There is only one right answer, and it is found in Him. Jesus says, "I am the life." Eternal life comes when you follow His way and live in His truth.

Elsewhere in the Bible we read, *For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, "The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.*⁵

There is only one way to get to Heaven. His name is Jesus.

"But how can that be?" You ask. Well, let me explain it using another story. It begins with two young brothers, one nine and the other seven, who decided that they would go exploring in the woods around their new home.

These boys were excited about their plans and spent most of the morning making the equipment they would need to do the best exploring. Older brother made a pair of binoculars out of construction paper and also drew himself a compass.

Meanwhile, younger brother tried to make a canteen out of construction paper but soon discovered that construction paper doesn't hold water very well. Armed with that knowledge, he decided it was best to ask Mom if he could borrow the water bottle she used while she rode her stationary bike.

Soon the boys were ready to begin. Before they left, though, Dad gathered his sons together and told them, "You can go anywhere in the woods around our backyard but stay out of the clearing!"

The boys agreed to the boundaries then raced off into the woods. Their exploratory trip was a blast as they checked out birds' nests, groundhog holes, and more. They even saw a little skunk.

Running through the trees, they ducked under low branches, swung on high ones, and reconnoitered all over the place...and then came to the clearing. It was a strange looking clearing, as all the ground seemed to slope toward the center.

They knew pressing forward was wrong but did it anyway. It would prove a disastrous mistake.

As they moved slowly toward the center of the clearing, the ground gave way. Waves of fear swept over them, their stomachs soared to their throats, as they dropped twenty-five feet to the soggy ground below.

The nine year-old hit first, shattering his left leg. Little brother crashed into the ground shoulder first, separating the ball from the socket. The pain for both was excruciating.

Scared, hurting, and unsure of what had happened, the boys cried out in panic. They were effectively trapped in a dark and shadowy place with no way out.

Moreover, the base of the pit was eight to ten inches of a gooey, sticky mud that virtually encased the boys. Trying to pull their feet and hands free was like trying to free themselves from wet cement. They could barely move. Their bodies stuck in nearly foot of mud.

It was a hopeless situation.

Scared and badly hurt, there was no way they could free themselves. No matter what they tried, it proved useless. The only way to be freed from their dark, soggy prison was for help to come from above.

Sure enough, when the boys hadn't come home, Dad went looking for them. He soon heard his sons' screams for help. Minutes later, help indeed came from above. A rescuer was sent down to pull them both up.

Now consider this. In the beginning, God gave us a world to explore, but He also gave us boundaries. We soon broke our Heavenly Father's boundaries through sin and found ourselves trapped. Trapped with no way to save ourselves.

Caught in a prison of sin and self, there was no way out. The situation was dire. The only hope was help from above.

And that's exactly what we got.

The Lord heard the screams of His lost and trapped children, so He sent a rescuer down. Indeed, Jesus came down in order to pull us back up.

From Hell to Heaven

Just as those two boys were stuck in a mud-filled shaft, so we are stuck in sin, trapped by our own wrong choices with no hope of freeing ourselves.

Without a doubt, all of us have said bad things, done bad things, and thought bad things. Each one of those things is called “sin.”

Sin separates us from a relationship with God, and we can’t do anything about it. There is no cure within us for sin. Just as those two boys could only be freed by a rescuer from above, so we too could only be freed from our sin that same way.

John 3:16 says, *for this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

The Bible tells us that God loved us so much that He sent a rescuer down to free us from our sin. He sent His Son, Jesus, to come and die in our places, for our sins, so that we could have forgiveness and eternal life.

1 John 1:9 tells us that *if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*

To be freed from our bondage we need only cry out, “God, I have sinned. I have said and thought and done bad things, but I believe you sent Jesus to free me from my sins. Please forgive me.”

Those words will lift us up out of the miry clay and put us on dry land. More than that, God will come and fill us with assurance. We are now His children and Heaven is ours.

We are one step closer to home.

HEAVEN IS OUR HOME

James Dobson shares a story about a five year-old boy who will never be forgotten by those who knew him.

This boy was dying because his young lungs were filling with fluid, leaving him unable to breathe. It was a torturous ordeal, but this courageous boy had a Christian mother who loved him and stayed by his side through it all.

She often cradled him on her lap and talked softly about the Lord. Instinctively, the woman was preparing her son for the final hours to come.

As the time of his passing drew ever closer, a nurse named Gracie entered the room and heard this precious young child talking about hearing bells. “The bells are ringing, Mommy,” he said. “I can hear them.”

Gracie thought that the poor child must be hallucinating because he was already slipping away. She left and returned a few minutes later. Again, the nurse heard him talking about the bells.

Gracie thought it was important to tell the mother that her son was probably hallucinating because of the illness. Mom disagreed.

She pulled her son closer to her chest, smiled, and said, “No, he is not hallucinating. I told him when he is frightened—when he can’t breathe—if he would listen carefully, he could hear the bells of Heaven ringing for him. That is what he’s been talking about all day.”

Later that evening, the child died on his mother’s lap. He was still talking about the bells when the angels came to take him home.⁶

Heaven is Our Home

In Philippians 3:20, Paul writes, *but we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.*

This verse reminds us to check our spiritual passport, for Heaven is our true home. It is where our citizenship is. It is where Christ is calling to each of us, beckoning us to Himself, so that we too will someday make our way home.

This earth is not our home. We were meant to be sojourners on earth not homesteaders.

Homesteaders settle and put down roots. That is not what a sojourner does. Sojourners understand that they are just passing through.

In 1 Peter 2:11, the wise apostle of Christ tells his readers, *Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.*

With those words, Peter is reminding all of us that we are *temporary residents and foreigners* here. We are just passing through on our way home.

Heaven is going to be a place of great joy. Do you know why? Because it is our real home. Earth is just a rest stop on the way home. Heaven is our destination. Heaven is where we belong.

Perhaps we will spend sixty, seventy, or eighty years on earth, but what is that compared to eternity? It is just an infinitesimally minute portion of our existence.

There will come a time in each of our lives when the question, “What is after this life?” will hang heavy in our minds. What we do with our lives now will greatly affect the answer to that question.

Have you done what’s necessary to prepare for your journey home?

A Welcome Waiting

When John Todd, a nineteenth-century clergyman, was six years-old, both his parents died. A kindhearted aunt raised him until he left home to study for the ministry.

Later, this aunt became seriously ill. In distress she wrote Todd a letter, wanting to know if death would mean the end of everything, or could she hope for something beyond.

This is the letter that John Todd sent her in reply:

It is now thirty-five years since I, as a boy of six, was left quite alone in the world. You sent me word you would give me a home and be a kind mother to me. I have never forgotten the day I made the long journey to your house. I can still recall my disappointment when, instead of coming for me yourself, you sent your servant to fetch me.

I remember my tears and anxiety as, perched high on your horse and clinging tight to the servant, I rode off to my new home. Night fell before we finished the journey, and I became lonely and afraid. “Do you think she’ll go to bed before we get there?” I asked.

“Oh no!” he said reassuringly, “She’ll stay up for you. When we get out of these woods, you’ll see her candle shining in the window.”

Presently we did ride out into the clearing, and there, sure enough, was your candle. I remember you were waiting at the door, then you put your arms close about me--a tired and bewildered little boy. You had a fire burning on the hearth, a hot supper waiting on the stove. After supper you took me to my new room, heard me say my prayers, and then sat beside me till I fell asleep.

Some day soon God will send for you, to take you to a new home. Don’t fear the summons, the strange journey, or the messenger of death. God can be trusted to do as much for you as you were kind enough to do for me so many years ago.

At the end of the road you will find love and a welcome awaiting, and you will be safe in God’s care.”¹

One day we will all be called to make that journey through those dark woods. What will you see as you come into the clearing?

If you have trusted in God's one and only Son, you will see that candle waiting for you in the window, letting you know that you were expected. You will see Jesus waiting at the door, ready to greet you, ready to put His arms around you, and ready to show you the home He has prepared just for you.

You will see a fire burning in the hearth and food on the table. You will see everything is as it should be, because now, yes now, you are finally home.

CONCLUSION

I remember the day Grandmom died.

On that day, God sent a servant to pick up His child. And as my grandmother came through the darkness of death, she saw a candle waiting for her in the window. She stepped into Jesus' welcoming arms, and the Savior took her into the room He had prepared just for her.

There Jesus stayed by her side until she fell asleep, safe and secure in her new home.

Truly, my grandmother faced death with courage, comfort, and hope, because she knew exactly where she would be the moment after her last breath.

Do you know where you'll be the moment after your last breath? You can, you know. You can know. You can be just as sure as my grandmom was.

Grandmom knew where she'd be the moment after she took her last breath, because she knew Jesus. She trusted Jesus.

Grandmom knew that every time we think, say, or do a bad thing, we sin. She knew that all of us have done these things and been separated from a perfect God.

Grandmom knew that the wages of our sin is death, and there is no way that we can ever do anything good enough to pay off our debt of sin.

But while Grandmom knew all of that, she also knew that Jesus Christ came to pay the debt of our sin by dying on the cross.

When we realize what Jesus did for us, when we believe He died for our sins and rose again, defeating death, sin, and the grave, then we too can defeat death, sin, and the grave and live forever in Heaven.

If we will simply accept Jesus into our hearts and begin to live for Him, then we too can be just as sure as my grandmom.

And, even better, the moment after our last breaths, we can be right where she is!

APPENDIX

1. Revelation 21:10-14
2. Revelation 21:15-17
3. Revelation 21:18-21
4. John 14:1-6
5. Acts 4:11,12
6. Focus on the Family, September, 1993, p. 3.
7. <https://bible.org/illustration/orphan-boy%E2%80%99s-new-home>

APPENDIX A – STILL IN PRISON?

On December 6, 1829, two men, George Wilson and James Porter, robbed a United States mail carrier in Pennsylvania. Both men were subsequently captured and tried. On May 1, 1830, both men were found guilty of six indictments which included robbery of the mail "and putting the life of the driver in jeopardy."

On May 27, both George Wilson and James Porter received their sentences: Execution by hanging. The sentences were to be carried out on July 2, 1830. James Porter was executed on schedule. George Wilson was not.

Shortly before the set date, a number of Wilson's influential friends pleaded for mercy to the President of the United States, Andrew Jackson. Amazingly, President Jackson issued a formal pardon. The charges resulting in the death sentence were completely dropped.

Incredibly, however, George Wilson refused the pardon!

According to the official report, it is recorded that George Wilson chose to: "...waive and decline any advantage or protection which might be supposed to arise from the pardon referred to..."

This had never happened before...someone refusing a pardon!

The case reached the Supreme Court. Chief Justice John Marshall wrote the following in the decision: "A pardon is an act of grace, proceeding from the power entrusted with the execution of the laws, which exempts the individual, on whom it is bestowed, from the punishment the law inflicts for a crime he has committed...A pardon is a deed, to the validity of which delivery is essential; and delivery is not completed without acceptance. It may then be rejected by the person to whom it is tendered; and if it be rejected, we have discovered no power in a court to force it on him."

Look at that last part again: "A pardon is a deed, to the validity of which delivery is essential; and delivery is not completed *without acceptance*. It may then be rejected by the person to whom it is tendered; and if it be rejected, we have discovered no power in a court to force it on him (emphasis mine)."

In other words, George Wilson committed a crime. He was tried and found guilty. He was sentenced to be executed. A presidential decree granted him a pardon, but Wilson chose to refuse it.

He would be executed shortly thereafter.

Imagine now that you are in prison. You are guilty. The sentence has been handed down. Death is on the way. But miracles of miracles, someone with ultimate authority says, "You are free."

Would you say, "NO! I am going to stay in prison. I will take the death sentence"? My guess is no way!

Nevertheless, millions upon millions are doing this every day.

The Romans Road

The Bible says, in Romans 3:23, that we all have sinned and fallen short of God's standards. In other words, we are *all* guilty.

Further, the Bible says, in Romans 6:23, that the penalty (or wages) of sin is death. More bad news! Not only are we all guilty, but we are all under a death sentence.

Thankfully, someone has come with pardon papers in hand.

Romans 5:8 tells us that God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to purchase our pardon. Jesus took the death sentence by dying on the cross for our sins.

Because of this, we can be free. We can step out of prison. The death sentence need not apply. Praise the Lord, the pardon has been given. The prison doors have opened.

The question is--will you accept the pardon?

APPENDIX B – LEADING A CHILD TO CHRIST

Talking to a child about becoming a Christian brings fear to the hearts of many. Will they understand what we're talking about? If they make a decision, how will I know if it's real? What if I say something wrong?

While these concerns are valid, we need to trust the work of the Holy Spirit and remember we do not save anyone, He does.

Another thing to remember is there is only one way to heaven. There is not one way for adults, another for youth, and another for children. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the only way to heaven and anyone who believes in Him will have eternal life (see John 14:6 and John 3:16).

In sharing Christ with children, there are a few simple tips to remember.

Share with Children Individually.

Talking with a child one on one gives you insight into what they are thinking and feeling. Often times with a group, children will answer for each other. Talking with one child at a time shows each child that the decision he or she is making is personal and important enough for individual attention.

Use Open-ended Questions.

These are questions requiring more than a yes or no answer. Children want to please and, by asking a question only needing a yes or no, they will give the answer they believe will please those asking the question. Use questions that have children put what they believe into words.

Here are some examples:

- Who is Jesus?
- What is sin?
- Why is sin a big deal?
- What makes someone a Christian?
- Why do you want to become a Christian?

Allow for Time and Self-Expression

It is not unusual for children to take up to a minute or even longer to answer a question they have not had to think about previously. Give children time to respond and avoid answering for them. If some time has passed, and you sense a child is struggling to put his or her thoughts into words, reword your question and see if that helps.

Avoid Using Church Talk. For those raised in church, being conscious of word choice is important. What does a child think when we talk about being lost? For many an instant of being separated from mom or dad comes to mind.

What about saved? Thoughts of being rescued from a swimming pool may pop into his head. If you are not sure if a child understands a word you are using, define the word as you are talking or ask her if she can tell you what it means.

Avoid TMI

A lot of spiritual conversations, especially between parents and children, come from questions asked by children. These questions often arise after they witness something spiritual (such as baptism or the Lord's Supper) or after a tragic event (an accident or loss of a pet).

When a child asks a question, answer the question simply and avoid TMI (too much information). See if the child has any more questions based on your answer and let the child guide the conversation. It is easy to get excited when children ask a spiritual question and want to tell them everything about becoming a Christian at once.

If children get bombarded with information that is beyond what they are asking, they lose interest. It may also keep them from coming to you in the future with questions if they are afraid, they may not understand your answer or if it will lead to a really long conversation.

In answering the questions of children, try to determine where they are on their spiritual journey. Here are four stages most children go through:

- Curiosity—they are asking questions and wanting facts about the world around them. These questions are general. The child is discovering things about God and who He is.
- Concern—they begin to realize that God impacts their world and the questions have to do with their life. These questions are usually triggered by an event like an accident or death.
- Conviction—children begin to apply their concern for the world around them on a personal level. This is when they go from knowing Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world to Jesus died on the cross for *my* sin.
- Conversion—the child realizes it is time to do something with what they know...either follow Jesus or follow my own way.

Use the Bible

Tracts and tools are wonderful, but, if at all possible, use a Bible as well when sharing with children. This shows them that the truths being shared come from God's Word and gives them the chance to know where to find them later if needed. If a child has a Bible with him, use it and mark the verses you refer to.

Have a Follow Up Plan.

A lot of children who doubt their salvation do so because, after they accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they do not know what to do next. Have a plan for discipleship in place.

I have a series of devotional books for parents to do with their children. You can check them out [HERE](#).

Also, be sure to plug your children into a great children's or youth ministry program at a local evangelical church.

Edited and adapted from "Reaching Generation Now"

APPENDIX C – BIBLE VERSES ON HEAVEN

The word “Heaven” is used well over 500 times in Scripture. Below is a sampling of verses regarding God’s intended home for His people.

Bible Verses Describing Heaven

Matthew 18:10-- *See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.*

John 14:2--*In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?*

Revelation 5:9-13--*And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”*

Revelation 21:4--*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.*

Revelation 22:1-5--*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.*

Bible Verses Showing Heaven is Our Home

1 Kings 8:30--*And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.*

1 Corinthians 2:7-9--*But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”*

2 Corinthians 5:8--*Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

Philippians 1:21-23--*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.*

Philippians 3:20-21--*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.*

Bible Verses Explaining Jesus Is the Only Way to Heaven

John 3:16--*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

John 3:36--*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

John 14:6--*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

John 17:3--*And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

Acts 4:12--*And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved."

Edited and adapted from www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com

APPENDIX D – Q & A ABOUT HEAVEN

Will we be able to see our friends and family in Heaven?

In the Bible, King Saul recognized Samuel when the witch of Endor summoned Samuel from the realm of the dead (1 Samuel 28:8-17).

When David's infant son died, David declared, "I will go to him, but he will not return to me" (2 Samuel 12:23). David assumed that he would be able to recognize his son in Heaven, despite the fact that he died as a baby.

In Luke 16:19-31, Abraham, Lazarus, and the rich man were all recognizable after death. At the transfiguration, Moses and Elijah were recognizable (Matthew 17:3-4).

In these examples, the Bible does seem to indicate that we will be recognizable after death.

Will there be marriage in Heaven?

Jesus states, "At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in Heaven" (Matthew 22:30).

Evidently, there will be no such thing as marriage in Heaven. This does not mean that a husband and wife will no longer know each other in Heaven. This also does not mean that a husband and wife could not still have a close relationship. What it does seem to indicate, though, is that a husband and wife will no longer be married in Heaven.

Most likely, there will be no marriage in Heaven simply because there will be no need for it. In Heaven, there will be no loneliness. We will be surrounded by multitudes of believers and angels (Revelation 7:9), and all our needs will be met, including the need for companionship.

Second, God created marriage as a means of procreation and the filling of the earth with human beings. Heaven, however, will not be populated by procreation. Those who go to Heaven will get there by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; they will not be created there by means of reproduction.

How can Heaven be perfect if all of our loved ones are not there?

The word *perfection* carries the idea of wholeness and a lack of nothing. If something is perfect, then it's complete. So how can Heaven be perfect if some people are missing? Wouldn't it be better if all our loved ones were there?

God is perfect (Psalm 18:3). God's dwelling place is perfect. God's plan of salvation is perfect. In God's plan (which is perfect) He extends the righteousness of Christ to all who trust in Him.

For a brief description of eternity, see Revelation 21—22. Everything is made new; everything is splendid, glorious, and blessed. That will include us. Our bodies, souls, and spirits will be completely blessed. Sin will no longer be a factor, and our thoughts will be in agreement with God's (1 John 3:2). God has a plan to comfort His people (Isaiah 40:1), to perfect His redeemed (Hebrews 10:14), and to provide for them for all eternity (Psalm 23:6).

Right now, our focus should not be on how we can enjoy Heaven or the eternal state without all of our loved ones there; rather, we should focus on how we can point our loved ones to faith in Christ—so that they will be there.

Do we become angels after we die?

Angels are beings created by God (Colossians 1:15-17) and are entirely different from humans. They are God's special agents to carry out His plan and to minister to the followers of Christ (Hebrews 1:13-14). There is no indication that angels were formerly humans or anything else—they were created as angels.

All the believers in Christ will recognize one another and live with the Lord forever. We will serve Him throughout eternity, not as angels, but along with the angels.

Do we receive mansions in Heaven?

Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:2-3).

This saying of Jesus has confused many because of the King James Version's rendering of the words "house" and "mansions." The Greek word translated "house" means "an abode," literally or figuratively, and, by implication, "a family." The word translated "mansions" or "rooms" means literally "the act of staying or residing." So, putting the Greek together, Jesus is saying that in God's home (heaven) there will be many people in the family of God all abiding together.

Within God's heavenly house, Christians will live in the presence of the Lord. This is quite different from the idea of rows of mansions on streets of gold, which is the image many people have of what Jesus was saying.

Revelation 7:9 tells us that there will be a "great multitude in Heaven that no one could number" all standing before the throne. Here, again, the imagery is of multitudes together, not living separately in different mansions.

Questions and answers edited and adapted from www.gotquestions.org. Check out that sight for the answers to more than 435,000 questions!

All Scriptures used in Appendix D are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.