



## LifeGroup Curriculum

*"This week we continue our conversation about what Heaven is like from a biblical perspective, challenging our own ideas about naked babies playing harps on clouds. We will walk through the usage of the words used to describe heaven and try to start framing our understanding of this topic. Be prepared to have some ideas about heaven shifted and learn to embrace the wonder as all of our questions are not answered. Looking forward to studying this together with all of you!"*

### INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

Share some way you brought "Heaven" to earth this week.

### SCRIPTURE READING:

#### Genesis 1:1

*"In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the earth."*

#### Genesis 28:10-17

*"10 Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. 12 And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! 13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. 14 Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." 16 Then Jacob*

## Heaven 1: Ascension

*awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." 17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."*

### John 1:43-51

*"43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."*

*44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51 And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Reread Genesis 28:10-17. What is the purpose of this passage? What does Jacob's dream mean? (Consider the original audience).
2. In the sermon Pastor CJ talked about "Hot Spots" of God's presence. What are these things and why are they significant? What hotspots do you see in the Scriptures?
3. Why does Jesus tell Nathanael that Jacob's dream is shifting to be about Himself? What are the implications of this?
4. Most modern Christians think of the Temple as something that we need not consider any longer. Why is it important for us to study Temple theology and understand how they worked in the ancient world and how does this apply to our modern lives as we live for Jesus?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. In the sermon, Pastor CJ talked about how the word "heaven" is loaded in our culture and carries with it all sorts of meanings. What kinds of meanings come to mind when you think of that word?
2. What are the practical and theoretical implications of thinking that God is separate from the earth (above it- Diesm)? What are the implications of thinking that God is in everything (Pantheism)?
3. Where do you find to be a "hot spot" for God's presence in your life?

## CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.