



## LifeGroup Curriculum

*“In the beginning Eden was this perfect place where God, Creation, and Humanity lived in perfect harmony. There was work to be done, rest to be had, and relationships to enjoy. Marred by sin, Humanity had to exit this perfection and the story of the biblical narrative is of God’s rescue plan to destroy sin and bring humanity back to the garden. This week we will look at Eden and how it is a picture of heaven on earth.”*

### INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

Have everyone share what they think of when they think of Heaven.

### SCRIPTURE READING:

#### **John 1:14**

*“14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

#### **John 2:18-22**

*“18 So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” 19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20 The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.”*

#### **Colossians 1:19**

*“19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,”*

#### **Acts 2:1-4**

## Heaven 1: Ascension

*"2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

### Ephesians 2:19-22

*"19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."*

### 1 Peter 2:4-5

*"4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Look back at Genesis 1:1-31. Prior to the Fall, life on earth is perfect, it's very good. What "falls" in the Fall? (Genesis 3:22-24). What does God destroy? (Genesis 6:1-8).
2. In the first three verses above, Jesus is presented as Temple, as a "hot spot" for God's presence. What is the theological significance that Jesus is the "new Temple?"
3. What is presented as the "new Temple" in the last three verses above? What is the theological and practical significance of this truth?
4. In the West over the past 50+ years the focus of the church has been to get people "saved." How does this theology jive with the Biblical focus of the church?
5. How does it work that God's throne/presence is in Heaven, in all the earth, and in the Temple?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Often people think that the world is evil and God's desire is to save us from it. A Jewish/Hebraic view states that His desire is to create us for the sake of the world. How do you view it? How do these views impact how we live within this world?
2. Looking at Eden in Genesis 1, what was this world supposed to look like before sin entered into it? How does living into the reality of the Kingdom of Heaven bring us back into moment-by-moment experiencing the garden?
3. If the world isn't evil, what does that mean for how we should interact with the world around us?
4. What might it look like if the biblical church community were a space where it looked like a total overlap of heaven and earth each Sunday?

## CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.

**THIS  
IS THE ACCOUNT  
OF THE HEAVENS  
AND THE EARTH  
WHEN THEY WERE  
CREATED,  
WHEN THE LORD GOD  
MADE THE EARTH  
AND THE HEAVENS.**

**GENESIS 2:4  
ADAM AND EVE**