

WHAT HAPPENS *when we* DIE?

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

CHAPTER 1

- ▼ Look at the description of heaven on page 9. Is that similar to how you've imagined heaven—either now or in the past? In what ways?
- ▼ Think about some of the different people you know. What do they think happens after we die?
- ▼ Do you think your friends and family are worried about the reality of hell or that there might be nothing after this life?
- ▼ Look at page 12. Which of the reasons for picking up the book do you most identify with?

CHAPTER 2

- ▼ According to pages 17-18, what did God create humans for?
- ▼ What were some of the consequence of the first people's decision to believe a lie about God? In what ways do we see those consequences play out today?
- ▼ What is God's ultimate plan for the earth and its people? Do you agree that that sounds better than spending forever in a "floaty cloud place"? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 3

- ▼ Why is it hard to describe God and where he is with our limited human language?
- ▼ What other meaning can we take from these phrases?
- ▼ "Heaven is being with God. It's less about where and more about who" (p 26). Does that help you feel any more excited about heaven? What questions do you still have?

CHAPTER 4

- ▼ In this chapter we saw that hell is separation from God's Kingdom. If God is the source of all good things, what kinds of things will be missing in hell?
- ▼ Is God cruel to allow people to go to hell? How does the campfire example on page 34 answer help us to answer that question?
- ▼ Why do you think Jesus talked about hell so much? What message did he want his hearers to know?

CHAPTER 5

- ▼ When you compare ourselves to others, how do you match up? Do you think you're ok? Not as bad as others? Not as good as some? What about when you compare your life to Jesus'?
- ▼ "Jesus came to offer us a swap—his life for ours" (p 42). What did he have to go through in order to do that?
- ▼ How did God make a way for us to come back to him, without compromising his own standards? What are the two options facing every person now (see p 44-45)?

CHAPTER 6

- ▼ What happens to Christians immediately after they die? (How does Luke 23:43 help?) What will happen to Christians on the day that Jesus returns?
- ▼ At the top of page 50 someone asks, "How are we all going to fit?" What other questions do you have about Jesus' return?
- ▼ What are some of the things that would need to be destroyed in order for the new earth to be truly pure and perfect? Think of as any specific examples as you can.

CHAPTER 7

- ▼ What was life like for the first followers of Jesus? How would reading John's vision of Jesus' returns have helped them in their hard times?
- ▼ What are three things that we can be pretty sure will be in the new creation? (See p 56)

- ▼ What good, true and beautiful thing do you still hope to do in the new creation? Look at page 59 for ideas.
- ▼ What questions or worries about life after death has this chapter helped answer for you? What questions do you still have?

CHAPTER 8

- ▼ What was Jesus' resurrection body like? How did he show that he was really alive?
- ▼ "You don't need to worry about not recognising the people you care about in the new creation—they'll still be them, and you'll still be you" (p 66). Does this statement surprise you? How?
- ▼ Will there be bad people in the new creation? (There's more than one way to answer this question!)

CHAPTER 9

- ▼ Do you ever struggle with difficult questions like the ones on page 69? If so, what are they?
- ▼ How will remembering that God is completely good and fair help us with these questions?
- ▼ Look at page 72. What things can we do when we feel frustrated or worried about friends and family who don't know Jesus?
- ▼ What difference does following Jesus make, not only to what happens when we die but also to how we live now?