



Small Group Guide | **Week 4**

Hope of Jesus' Second Coming

Discussion Questions to Review: The Hope of Heaven (5–10 minutes)

- As a result of this study, what new insights do you have about the words we often say in church as part of the Lord's prayer: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"? Matthew 6:10
- Describe ways you have seen or experienced heaven and earth interlocking and working together.
- Whether or not you are memorizing the scripture, recite together the suggested memory verse: Romans 15:13 NIV " May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." For any who would like, recite the verse or the part of the verse you have memorized to your small group.

Watch

Week 4 Video | Hope of Jesus' Second Coming

[Session Video](#) (17 minutes)

Read these Scripture passages aloud:

Daniel 7:13-14 NIV

¹³"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

ACTS 1:9-11 NIV

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Philippians 3:20-21 NIV

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Head

What is the Hope of Jesus' Second Coming? *(5–10 minutes)*

Summarize 3–5 points of the message of this video.

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Heart

Reacting to the Hope of Jesus' Second Coming *(10–15 minutes)*

1. A popular view about the Second Coming includes that Jesus will “snatch up” his people, rescue them from a dying planet, and take them somewhere else. What were you taught? What is your reaction to the idea, instead, that Jesus is coming back to redeem the earth, heal his people, and reign in glory?
2. Wright discusses 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. What are some of the metaphors used in the passage and how is Paul mixing them? What caution does Wright give about passages like these that use this kind imagery? Do you find his view persuasive?
3. As residents of earth, we are called to bring the culture of heaven into this world. Do you find this idea difficult? How can asking the Holy Spirit and working with your community help with this challenge?

Hands

Living the Hope for Jesus' Second Coming (10–15 minutes)

We continue to consider: as people of the hope, having confidence in the hope of Jesus' second coming, how can we be moved to action and bring hope right where we live today? What are some practical implications for our world, our community, and our lives? How is Jesus our model?

Questions for Discussion:

1. If Jesus is coming back to redeem the earth, heal His people, and reign in glory, how does this impact our prayer life today? Our attitudes and action towards creation?
2. One day Jesus will bring perfect justice, peace, and wisdom to this earth. Until that time, Christians are His agents to do these things in His name. What is one practical way you can be an agent for one of the following things this week:
 - o Justice in a world that can be very unfair
 - o Peace in a broken and conflict-filled world
 - o Wisdom when people often settle for shallow answers
3. Continue discussing and planning your small group service project (ideas, time, location) that will bring heaven to earth. If you have not decided on a project yet, consider bringing beauty and attention to God's creation through artistic creativity or practical expressions of beauty such as painting a home, working in a community garden, or planting trees.

Conclusion

For Those Reading the Book During this Study

Chapters 8-9 correspond to this week's video.

"All that we do in faith, hope, and love in the present, in obedience to our ascended Lord and in the power of his Spirit, will be enhanced and transformed at his appearing."

Closing Prayer

Father of Peace, thank You that Jesus will return in glory and victory one day and make all things new! Holy Spirit, though there are many views among believers about the second coming, help us to be humble and not contentious with those who have a different perspective. Give us strength and wisdom to care for the world and appreciate its beauty until Jesus returns to fully restore it. In His name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Spend the next six weeks memorizing and meditating on one verse, Romans 15:13. Even if your time is limited, this is possible!

Romans 15:13 NIV

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Memory Tip: Walk while memorizing the verse with one step per word. Put the verse to music. The tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" works as well as any other song.