



MARK

Part 37 – Sept 3

Mark 12:18-27

Leaders Guide
(Approximately 60 min)



Connect Spend time allowing group members to connect with one another relationally. (5 min)



Celebrate Ask how they've seen God working in their lives since you met last. (or relating to the previous meeting's discussion) (5 min)



Coach Facilitate discussion using the guide below (30 min)

Focus: Hope for Future Glory... Better than we imagine

Big Idea: We can trust Jesus with the future because of His teachings about the Resurrection

“Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.”
(Mark 4.20)

Read through Mark 12:18-27 and share a couple of things that stand out to you.



What do you imagine Heaven to be like?

Overview:

In the message Sunday we looked at Jesus' teachings about the resurrection.

Jesus Promises a Real Physical Resurrection

Because Jesus is our Head - Because as Colossians 1 says - that Jesus is the firstborn among the resurrection and from what John teaches in his Gospel & in the short letters near the end of the NT, our bodies will BE like Jesus' resurrection body.

Eternity is More Glorious than our World Hopes

There are so many passages - and here's what I want you to do. all of these passages that I'm going to list here, I want you to go home and look up - be encouraged by these realities of heaven

Heaven is Not our Final Home

We sometimes wrongly assume that we will be in a spiritual state in the same way that we view heaven now. Heaven is a real place, but a spiritual place. Jesus is forever physical and is preparing the "New Creation" for us who will be with him in his everlasting eternal presence.

Long for this day - and trust Jesus with the future, he Was Certain about his beliefs in the face of opposition when it came to the resurrection and God's power to bring it about - and so too can we be certain and trust in him.



Discussion Questions:

Question 1: What does it mean to that Jesus promises a real physical resurrection?

Question 2: Why do you think it is important remember how glorious Heaven will be?

Question 3: What are some ways that you can focus on your eternity in Heaven?

Question 4: What is one practical way that you can live differently knowing that Heaven is not our final home?



Quotes and passages from the teaching:

The world's systems take issue with our conservative moral values, and traditional family structures. It disagrees with our belief that not all roads lead to God, and that only Jesus is the way to right relationship with God.

The world believes Christians to be restrictive, old-fashioned, on the wrong side of history in regard to many of the "progressing" realities of our culture melting pot in North America.

In recent religious surveys in the US show that 80% of Americans believe in some sort of life after death, while another 9% are unsure, which means it's only 11% of people who deny that there is any life after death.

One of the major distinctions theologically from the Sadducees to the Pharisees was their beliefs around the Torah & what was valid as God's revelation and what wasn't and their beliefs around the Resurrection.

What they are trying to do - is prove to Jesus that they have an "un-winnable" scenario that disproves the resurrection entirely.

So it is because the Sadducees reject a God of power who can raise dead bodies to life, or continue in relationship with those who have died physically in the afterlife - in the "resurrection" that Jesus says they do not know the power of God.

God is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living - citing to them that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the heads of the covenant people of God, are still alive - meaning that ALL of the covenant people redeemed by God and holding to his promise are still now alive in God's presence.

We are told several times throughout Revelation that we should expect the world to be ordered in the new creation state of it being VERY good in the same way - but everlasting.



EXPERIENCE: A time to apply

Here is a spiritual assignment: In your quiet time this week, I encourage you to reflect on today's message and look for ways to keep focused on Heaven



Communicate

Share important information items with your group. (5 min)



Care

Spend time praying as a group. You may want to take specific prayer requests from your team members. (10 min)
