

# Heavenly

## Heaven: Until Then...

### GET GOING

Heaven sounds awesome, but what do we do until we get there? Around the world horrible things are happening every day. And heartache often penetrates our personal experience. With all this brokenness, where do we start? What do we do? Let's talk about it.

### DISCUSS

1. **What's the most expensive thing you've broken? What happened?**
2. **What cause is close to your heart? In other words, what need would you/do you like to get involved in alleviating?**
3. **Read Psalm 72:12-14 to your group**, "For [God] will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight." **What does this passage teach us about the heart of God?**
4. Luke 6:36 says, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Paul McGuinness outlined three ways we can respond to the brokenness of the world like God does. **Of the following, which one comes most naturally to you? Least naturally?**
  - (1) Speak out in proclamation - Share the good news of what Jesus Christ has done for us. (Nearly 3 billion people have yet to hear the message of the gospel.)
  - (2) Reach down with compassion - tangibly meet the needs of others. (For example: 1.1 billion people have inadequate access to clean water and 1 billion children live in poverty.)
  - (3) Stand up for justice - Be an advocate for the oppressed. (It is estimating that 27 million people are enslaved in various ways through human trafficking and slavery. And there are many more groups of people that need an voice who do not have one.)
5. **Read 1 John 3:17-18. What is the point John is making?** (e.g. Talk is not enough; compassion involves action.)
6. **What usually stops us from getting involved in a cause?** (e.g. Overwhelmed, distracted, too busy, don't know where to start, etc.)
7. **When was the last time you helped someone in need? What did you learn through that experience?**

### WRAP IT UP

Have you ever considered that one of the best ways to help ourselves out of a funk is to help someone else get out of their's? What concrete step do you need to take this week to share the good news, show tangible compassion, or stand up for the oppressed? (Note: as a group, what need can you meet together this summer?)

