

R U N
are you in?

LifeGroups
get connected.

TRANSFORMATION

"And we... are being transformed into His likeness."

2 Corinthians 3:18

Discussion Guide

Life Sentences - "Heaven"

FOCUS: To explore John's description of the Holy City and identify practical ways that you can live out the hope and encouragement that we find in John's description.

Revelation 21:1-22:5 (NIV)

1. What did John see coming down out of heaven from God? (21:2)
2. What did the loud voice from the throne announce? How did he describe the new world to come? (21:3-4)
3. What are the implications of God living with us? Is your relationship with God as close as He wants it to be? What will you do about that today?
4. What does God promise those who are thirsty? (21:6)
5. What does God promise to those who overcome? (21:7)
6. What other spectacular features of the New Jerusalem did John see? (21:10-21)
7. Why was no temple needed? (21:22)
8. How did John describe the purity of the Holy City? (21:26-27)
9. Why do you think that God revealed all of this detail about the New Jerusalem? What would cause to you feel protected and safe in such a city?
10. What did the angel show John? (22:1)
11. What was growing on each side of the river? (22:2)
12. How often did the tree bear fruit? (22:2)
13. What was unique about the leaves on the tree? (22:2)
14. Read Genesis 3:14-19. What "curse" do you think that John was describing in Revelation 22:3?
15. How can a person "wear God's name on his forehead?"
16. What are some biblical truths that John was trying to communicate with his first-century readers?

CHETS TOP 5

C.L.A.S.S. 101-401
Tonight
5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Backpacks and
School Supply
Collection
August 1st - 22nd

Fall Leadership
Training
Sunday, August 15th
5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Beach Baptism
Sunday, August 29th
6:00 p.m.

Follow Me to
LifeGroup
Month of August



CHETS CREEK
CHURCH

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Read Thru the Bible

"How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey. Your commandments give me understanding; no wonder I hate every false way of life. Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."
Psalm 119:103-105

August	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalm	Proverbs
1	2 Chron 17:1-18:34	Acts 25:23-26:18	89:46-52	19:8-9
2	2 Chron 19:1-21:11	Acts 26:19-27:8	90:1-12	19:10-12
3	2 Chron 21:12-24:16	Acts 27:9-29	90:13-17	19:13-14
4	2 Chron 24:17-26:23	Acts 27:30-28:10	91:1-8	19:15-16
5	2 Chron 27:1-29:17	Acts 28:11-31	91:9-16	19:17
6	2 Chron 29:18-31:10	Romans 1:1-23	92:1-7	19:18-19
7	2 Chron 31:11-33:13	Romans 1:24-2:16	92:8-15	19:20-21
8	2 Chron 33:14-35:15	Romans 2:17-3:8	93:1-5	19:22-23

LifeGroup Prayer Requests:

"You are not responsible for everyone in the church family - but you are responsible to them. So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

LOOKING TOWARD NEXT SUNDAY

John the Baptist - John 3:30

To be challenged to increase Christ and decrease his/her self following the example of John the Baptist.

MONDAY - AUGUST 2, 2010

Read Luke 1:5-17: John's Birth Foretold

*5In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. 6Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. 7But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years. 8Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, 9he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside."
(not all verses printed due to space)*

Many times at Christmas we are so intent on the story of the birth of Jesus found in Luke 2 that we fail to read Luke 1. In the first chapter Luke recounts the birth of John the Baptist.

- What personal characteristics did Zechariah and Elizabeth have in common?
- What promises did Gabriel make about John?
- What instructions did Gabriel give regarding John's upbringing?
- What would be the main purpose of John's life?
- Could God do something truly amazing through your life? How would you support your answer?

TUESDAY - AUGUST 3, 2010

Read Matthew 3:1-17: John Prepares the Way

1In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea 2and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." 3This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' " 4John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 7But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. (not all verses printed due to space)

A voice of one calling in the desert, "prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him" – Isaiah 40:3

- Why was John's ministry significant?
- What was unusual about the way he looked? About what he ate?
- How was John's message received by the people?
- What was John's testimony about that person who would come after him?
- Why did Jesus want to be baptized?

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 4, 2010

Read John 3:27-30: John's Testimony about Jesus

27To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. 28You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ[a] but am sent ahead of him.' 29The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. 30He must become greater; I must become less.

These verses contain this week's key verse, "He must become greater; I must become less."

- Who did John say that he was? Who did he say that he was not?
- How did John feel about Jesus becoming more important?
- What is the meaning of the story of the bride and bridegroom?
- What did John say about Jesus' future?
- What does this tell us about John's character?
- How would you have felt if you were John?
- What are some areas in which you struggle to be humble?

THURSDAY - AUGUST 5, 2010

Read Matthew 11:1-15: Jesus Commends John

1After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. 2When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples 3to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" 4Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 6Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." 7As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' 11I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. 13For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. 14And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. 15He who has ears, let him hear.

What kinds of things does Jesus consider commendable?

- What question did John the Baptist send to Jesus?
- What was Jesus' response? What proof did he offer to support his claim that he was the Messiah?
- What did Jesus say that John the Baptist was not?
- What compliments did Jesus pay to John?
- If Jesus were to say things about you, what kinds of things would he say?

FRIDAY - AUGUST 6, 2010

Read Matthew 14:1-12: John the Baptist Beheaded

1At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus, 2and he said to his attendants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him." 3Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, 4for John had been saying to him: "It is not lawful for you to have her." 5Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered him a prophet. 6On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for them and pleased Herod so much 7that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. 8Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." 9The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted 10and had John beheaded in the prison. 11His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. 12John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.

These verses describe the tragic death of John.

- What had Herod done to John? Why?
- Why had John rebuked Herod? How did Herod react?
- What were the circumstances of John's execution?

Have you ever experienced risk or danger just because you lived out your faith?