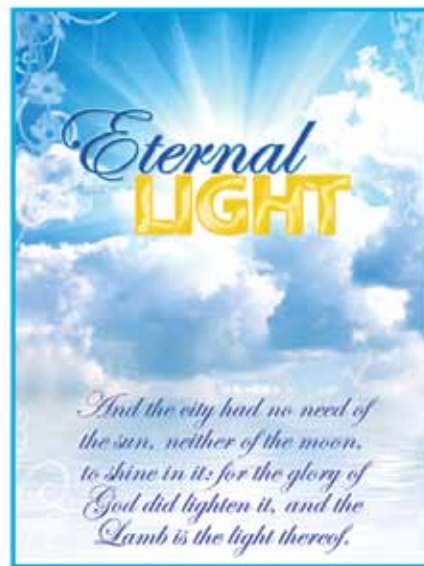


Worship

JESUS: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE
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ETERNAL LIGHT

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Eternal LIGHT



FOCAL POINT: Realizing the darkness of hell, we thrill at the brilliance of Heaven and long for this place where Jesus, Light of the World, now Eternal Light of Heaven, is ever worshiped.

LIGHT FOR THE PATH: Revelation 21

RAYs TO REMEMBER: “And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it” (Revelation 21:23-24).

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). He prepared a place for us from the very instant of time, and He’s preparing a place for us at the end of time. That truly gives meaning to why Jesus said, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the End” (Revelation 21:6). It thrills me to realize that one day I will move to my new home, not here on earth, but my heavenly home. Even more exciting is knowing that where I’m going is God’s home, His dwelling place.

Everything will be perfect in this city of God. Don’t you long for a place where there’ll be no more crying, heartaches, physical aches, stress, dying, or discomforts of any kind? You may be thinking, “I sure need a vacation like *that*.” The neatest thing is that it’s not a resort or exotic destination. It is a permanent place of eternal rest and peace. God is there laying the foundation, checking on the décor, stocking the refrigerator, and getting the landscaping perfect. He’s preparing our mansion.

My family and I have lived in our new earthly home for two years. Already, some things need fixing. We are adding new details. I need some new furniture. We constantly have to clean and mow the grass. In other words, it is not anywhere near perfect. Nothing on earth is perfect. Even though I’ve been a Christian for a very long time, (let me scream this) I’M NOT PERFECT. Just ask anyone who knows me. I do, however, try to *shine* as a Christian and let others see my light. That is what God expects from me and from you.

Heaven will be so bright, so beautiful and so glorious that as the songs says, “We can only imagine” what it will be like. Last Sunday at my church we sang, “What a Day That Will Be.” The first verse always gives me *glory bumps*. It says, “When I look upon His face, the one who saved me by His Grace; when He takes me by the hand, and leads me through the Promised Land, what a day, glorious day that will be.” Hallelujah!

The Darkness of Hell

- ✿ Write the Rays to Remember in your journal. Read it often during your study.
- ✿ Read the Scripture references listed in “Warming up with the Word” (Matthew 8:12; 25:30; Revelation 16:10-11).
- ✿ What is darkness? (*We know it as the absence of light.*)
- ✿ Do we comprehend being in “darkness forever”? Can this be true? (*See Jude 13; 2 Peter 2:17.*)
- ✿ Why was hell created? (*For the devil and his angels—Matthew 25:41*)
- ✿ Do you believe hell is really a place? Read Luke 16:19-26. Where did the rich man lift up his eyes (v. 23)?
- ✿ What do we find in hell? (*Fire—Matthew 13:42; Revelation 20:15*)



- ✿ Have you ever burned any part of your body? (It hurts!) Can you imagine burning constantly and never being able to stop the pain?
- ✿ How long does hell last? (*Forever—Mark 9:41-45*)
- ✿ What will happen to the devil when Christ returns? (*Revelation 20:10*)
- ✿ Can we even imagine how horrible hell is?
- ✿ Who is destined for hell? (*Revelation 21:8; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10*)
- ✿ Read Psalm 37 in its entirety. Compare and contrast the verses of the righteous and the wicked. Give a few of your thoughts.
- ✿ How can we make sure that we don't go to hell? (*John 3:15, 36; Acts 16:31*)
- ✿ Make a list of people in your journal who aren't saved. Pray daily for their salvation.
- ✿ Close in prayer, thanking God for your personal salvation. Ask Him to give you a burden for lost souls.

The City of Heaven

- ✿ Read Isaiah 60:19-22 and Revelation 4.
- ✿ Go over the Rays to Remember. Today's study concerns that city.
- ✿ Go over all the questions and answers on p. 31.
- ✿ How does reading and studying about Heaven make you feel as compared to the study on hell?

- ✿ What did God prepare for His people in John 14:1-4? (*A place—Heaven*)

LEADER'S NOTE: The last paragraph on p. 31 contains a reference that reaffirms Isaiah 64:4. That reference should be 1 Corinthians 2:9. We can only imagine the splendor and glory of Heaven. Mercyme, a contemporary Christian group, released a song entitled, "I Can Only Imagine" in 2001. The chorus says: *"Surrounded by your glory, what will my heart feel? Will I dance before you Jesus or in awe of you be still? Will I stand in your presence or to my knees will I fall? Will I sing Hallelujah, will I be able to speak at all? I can only imagine."*

<http://www.elyrics.net/read/m/mercyme-lyrics>

- ✿ In reading the description of Heaven in Revelation 21:21, did you notice what it said about the gates?

- ✿ Where do pearls come from? (*Mostly, oysters; Clams and mussels can also produce pearls, but that's rare.*)

LEADER'S NOTE: Pearls are the result of a biological process. A tiny grain of sand gets inside an oyster's shell and makes it uncomfortable. To relieve its pain it covers the irritant with a soft lustrous nacre that hardens into a beautiful, glowing pearl. Then when the oyster dies, the pearl is removed from the shell.

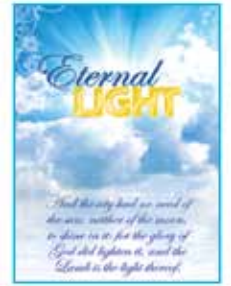
- ✿ Have you ever seen an oyster large enough to produce a pearl big enough for Heaven's gates?

- ✿ In Matthew 13:45,46 we find the Parable of the Goodly Pearls. It tells how a merchant went looking for goodly or expensive pearls. The merchant represents the Kingdom of Heaven. When he found the pearl, what did he do? (*Sold all that he had to buy it.*)

- ✿ What was this "Pearl of great price"? (*Jesus*) How is He like a pearl? (*Jesus suffered as he went through the anguish of the cross. Out of that pain came our salvation, the pearl of great price. The redeemed will never forget the price—the pain and agony of the cross.*)

- ✿ Close in prayer. Thank God for giving us a glimpse of Heaven. Praise Him for our future home.

The Savior of Heaven



- ✿ Read the Rays to Remember together.
- ✿ Go over all the questions and answers on p. 32 together.
- ✿ Note the question, “What does God promise in 1 John 5:25? The reference should be 1 John 2:25. (*The answer is Eternal Life.*)
- ✿ Why will God keep this promise? (*Because He doesn’t break promises or lie to us. His Word is true and what He says He’ll do, He will—Titus 1:2*)
- ✿ Why do we seek eternal life? (*We need to know that our soul will live on forever—1 John 5:11-13, John 10:28*)
- ✿ What will we do with our eternal life in Heaven? (*Praise the One who gave us this gift—James 1:17, Colossians 1:12, Revelation 5:11-12.*)
- ✿ Do you think the people of the Old Testament realized there would be a life after the one on earth?
- ✿ Read Daniel 12:1-2. Daniel prophesied of an everlasting life.
- ✿ What does John 12:25 mean? Does John 17:3 answer the previous question? (*Yes, if we know God, then we have eternal life.*)
- ✿ What do verses which speak of eternal life give us? (*Hope, security, comfort*) In your journal, list some verses that do this: John 8:51; 11:26, Luke 20:36, Romans 2:7.
- ✿ When does life begin? (*From the moment we’re conceived—Jeremiah 1:5*) When does eternal life begin? (*The moment we accept Christ—John 10:10, 28*)
- ✿ Read the bullet points for Heaven’s benefits on p. 33 together. Tell which one you look forward to most and why.
- ✿ Write 2 Peter 3:9 in your journal.
- ✿ Close in a prayer of praise for our Savior and Lord.

The Prelude to Heaven

- ✿ Read the Scriptures in Warming Up With The Word: 1 John 1:5-8; 2:8-11.
- ✿ Go over the questions and answers on p. 33 together.
- ✿ Do you live your life as if you believe every word in the Bible? Or do you take sections and live according to them?
- ✿ Is it easy to live a Christian life?
- ✿ What are some things that God expects from us as His children? (1) *Communicate with Him—PRAY*, (2) *Learn more about Him—READ HIS WORD*, (3) *Go to His house—WORSHIP*, (4) *Be thankful—PRAISE*, (5) *Tell others of Him—WITNESS*, (6) *Be good examples—LIVE RIGHT*, (7) *Help others—LOVE THEM*, (8) *Support His work—GIVE GENEROUSLY*
- ✿ Do you get excited thinking of Heaven or would you rather think of it as a far off place you’d rather wait about journeying to?
- ✿ Do you really believe it’s there being prepared for you?
- ✿ Do we have to prepare ourselves for Heaven?
- ✿ We may long for Heaven, want to go soon, tell others, and be “all packed up,” but what should we do while we still have our feet on earthly soil? (*Strengthen our relationship with Jesus, the One and Only. He’s our purpose for living and for dying.*)



- ✿ Do you think about your loved ones who've gone to Heaven?
- ✿ What do you think they are doing right at this moment?
- ✿ Have you ever heard people say things like, "If there's not any chocolate there, then I don't want to go," or if "there's not going to be any beaches, why bother"? I'm sure anyone who says things like this is just doing it to be funny. Have you ever thought or said anything like that?
- ✿ Do you actually believe that Heaven would be boring? *(Personally, I think it will be an amazing, wonderful place of discovery and excitement.)*
- ✿ Do you have your reservation made for Heaven? *(1 Peter 1:4)*
- ✿ Journal your thoughts about Heaven.
- ✿ Dismiss with the song, "Heaven's Jubilee," p. 676, *REJOICE! The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book*.

In Closing...

The hope we have in Jesus is based on our redemption. Every day we are moving closer to one of the locations our study talked about. We are either on the right path, following the Lord, walking with Him or we are on the wrong path, sinning and wanting nothing to do with the Lord. We are given warnings all throughout the Bible, words that are true and trustworthy. All we have to do is heed and obey them. Make no mistake, we will exist forever, in one place or another—eternal life or eternal death. Have you made your choice? Don't you want to take the *air-flight*? First Thessalonians 4:7 is a promise waiting to happen. I don't think it will be long before Jesus comes to take us home. I can't emphasize enough how wonderful this will be. Pack your bags, get ready and look toward the Eternal Light. Maybe we'll pass each other in the air.