

## Exploring Heaven facilitator Nick Loenen

We know so little about Heaven. It is mostly speculation. Why bother to talk about it?

God and Satan, Heaven and Hell were real in the world of the Bible and Jesus. Today, for more and more people “divine” and “heavenly” describe the taste of chocolate, new clothes, an exotic holiday but not anything like a real person or place. Our modern world is secular, without God, without Heaven. It is a small, flat world. There is nothing beyond it. Death is a hole, not a door.

Peter Kreeft writes: “If we are typically modern, we are bored, jaded, cynical, flat and burnt out. When the skies roll back like a scroll and the angelic trump sounds, many will simply yawn and say, “Pretty good special effects, but the plot’s too traditional.”

We need to think about Heaven so life on earth will be fuller, filled with wonder, hope and joy, especially hope and joy. Heaven is where the redeemed participate in God’s divine nature while remaining fully human. In Heaven we learn to understand earthly existence, explore and participate in God’s love, and experience fellowship among all human lives – the communion of the saints.

Thinking correctly about all this is not an end in itself. Jesus did not say, “If you love me, think right.” Instead, he said, “If you love me, keep my commandments.”

The aim of talking about Heaven, the aim of this exploration, is to deepen our walk of discipleship. What we think of Heaven shapes our walk on earth. Time and eternity flow into each another. From a deepened relationship to God flow hope and joy for this life.

Expand your world! Come and explore Heaven!

January 15	Why Talk about Heaven?
January 22	What is Heaven and Where is Heaven?
January 29	What Is There To Do In Heaven?
February 5	Does Heaven Begin on Earth?
February 12	Is There Really A Hell?
February 19	What is the Joy of Heaven?
February 26	Your Turn: Ask Remaining Questions and Share what you Learned

Participants will not be asked to purchase a book but are urged to read and study the questions and readings prepared for each week and available on the church website, [ladnercrc.com](http://ladnercrc.com)

Primary sources:

Peter Kreeft, *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Heaven*, 1990

Peter Kreeft, *Heaven: The Heart’s Deepest Longing*, 1980

Secondary sources:

Nathan Bierma, *Bringing Heaven Down To Earth*, 2005

Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*, 2004

\*\*Note: Kreeft draws primarily on CS Lewis and his understanding of what the Bible reveals about Heaven.

### Join the Conversation

For comments, questions and discussion between Sundays send an email to [nloenen@shaw.ca](mailto:nloenen@shaw.ca) requesting that you be added to the *Exploring Heaven* email distribution list.