

FIRM FOUNDATION

Discussion Notes

A NEW HOPE

This week we're talking about heaven. Go around the group and find out: what do you think about when you hear the word 'Heaven'?

Philip said it is really important that we are clear about what Heaven looks like. He said: "Unless you know where you are going, you won't have the security to handle your present right now."

- Do you agree with this statement?
- What difference would it make to your firm foundation in life if you had a clear idea about what Heaven will be like?

Read Revelation 21:1-7 together.

We make two mistakes about heaven: It is 'down, not up' and 'new, not none'.

DOWN, NOT UP - "...coming down out of heaven from God... "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them."

Do a quick show of hands, how many of us think of going 'up' to heaven? This is actually a Greek way of thinking that says we need to escape from the world because it is evil. Instead, John tells us that Heaven is going to come down and merge with Earth.

- How does that change the way we think about Heaven?
- How does that change the way we think about Earth? How should we treat it differently based on this?
- Philip said the promise is that God will not be far off but dwelling right here with us. How does this make you feel?

NEW, NOT NONE - "I am making everything new!"

Another misconception we can have about Heaven is that earth as we know it finishes and all the things we love disappear. Instead, the Bible says it is evil and pain that will disappear.

- How does this promise of the end of suffering in the future give us a firm foundation for today? How can it help us in this current storm we are all in?
- Do you think people would view faith differently if they knew the Bible had this promise about our suffering?

As well as bringing an end to suffering, the Bible says God is making everything new. The Greek word is 'Kainos' which means, 'fresh, new in quality and character.' It's not like getting a new car from an Astra to an Audi. Kainos is more like going from an Astra to a self-driving, hovering supercar. The promise for our future is that we will have our current world but brand new in a Kainos way.

- How different is this from what you thought the age to come would look like?
- What are you looking forward to experiencing in a Kainos way in our ultimate reality?