

Parents,

This movie may provide some great opportunities for real and open discussions with your kids about heaven; the afterlife; death, and more.

Having discussions and conversations with your kids is a great thing, and it's even ok to say "I don't know," if you can't answer something. There are some things that the Bible is very clear about, and some things the Bible is ambiguous about, or doesn't even mention at all! There is a lot we don't know about heaven- and that's ok! We will find out the answers to those questions some day! But for now, we want to encourage kids to have discussions and let them know that it's ok to ask questions and it's even better to seek the Bible for answers.

Heaven is a big topic- especially for kids. We have provided this resource to help you talk with your kids. Included, are some Frequently Asked Questions and some Bible references.

To get this resource, go to www.lynnehoward.com

Some examples of questions are:

What does heaven look like? What will we do in heaven? Will there be animals in heaven? What about angels? Where is heaven? How do you get to heaven?AND MORE

Your kids are invited to join us in eKidz Sunday morning services at 9AM and 11AM at Eastgate Church, where we will continue our series "Heaven is For Real" and kids will learn about what the Bible has to say about heaven.

For more information, we recommend the book "Heaven is for Real: For Kids" which gives a kid-friendly version of Colton's story, and the book "Heaven: for Kids" by Rancy Alcorn.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Is heaven a real place?

Yes! The Bible talks about heaven, and uses these words to describe it: "City," "Paradise," a "Garden," the "Father's House with many mansions," a "Resting Place," the "Kingdom of God," a "Heavenly Country," "The Kingdom of Heaven."

What does heaven look like?

The Bible describes Heaven is a very beautiful place with lots of colors and jewels streets of gold. In the movie, Colton said that heaven had colors the eyes haven't even seen before. (Revelation 4:3-8 Revelation 21:21-24)

Are animals in heaven?

The Bible does talk about animals being in heaven (Isaiah 65:25; Revelation 6:2-8). The Bible talks about angels riding horses and horse-drawn chariots, as well as wolves lying down and resting in peace together with lambs. In the movie, Colton says that he saw many different kinds of animals in heaven.

How do you get to heaven?

John 14:6 says "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one gets to the Father, except through me." If you trust in Jesus and give your life to Him to let Him forgive your sins and make you new; you will spend eternity in heaven with God! (John 3:16).

Will we have a body?

Philippians 3:20-21 tells us that Jesus Christ will transform our bodies to be like His. This tells us that we will possess a new body full of Christ's power and glory.

What will we do in Heaven?

While the Bible does not tell us in full detail what will take place in heaven, but it does say that we will worship and serve God. (Revelation 22:3 & Revelation 7:15).

Will kids go to school in heaven?

While Colton said in the movie that kids will go to school, we don't know the answer to this question, because the Bible doesn't talk about kids going to school in heaven. It DOES say that there will be no sadness or pain in heaven (Revelation 21:4), so if there IS school for kids, it won't make them sad!

What about the children who die before they can understand the concept of God and His Son?

We believe, and many churches also teach, in the principle of the age of accountability which means children are not held accountable for their sin until they understand sin, forgiveness, and judgment. (John 16:7-11) We also believe that God has a special love for children, and believe that He longs for children to be with Him (Matthew 19:13-15).

Will there be angels in heaven?

The Bible talks a lot about angels in heaven. The Bible does not say that people BECOME angels in heaven; it says that angels are specially created by God. (Psalms 33:6; Psalm 148:2,5; Isaiah 40:26; Ephesians 3:9-10; Revelation 10:6)

Will we know people in heaven?

In the movie, Colton recognizes people in heaven. The Bible does point to the fact that people will know each other in heaven (Matthew 17:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Where is heaven?

In Revelation 21:1-7 says, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God." We don't know exactly WHERE heaven is, but we do know that it is real.

Is heaven scary? What about death?

Sometimes, talking about heaven is scary for kids. It's important to remind them that heaven is a beautiful, wonderful place. It is going to be amazing, and we are going to love it there! It is not scary. Hopefully, we won't get to know what heaven is like for a long time, but the truth is, sometimes people really DO die, and it's not sad for those who love God, because they are having a blast in heaven, and they aren't sad or hurting. Talking about death can be sad or scary for kids, but it is a reality of life, and even if they haven't known someone yet who has passed

away, they will at some point, and it is a good opportunity to talk about how those who die get to be with Jesus in an amazing place. Philippians 3:20-21 says "But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. ²¹ He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control."

Where do people go when they die if they DIDN'T trust in Jesus?

Romans 6:23 says the penalty for sin is death. Spiritual death means being separated from God. Instead of a person living with God forever in heaven, they would be separated from God forever.

I want to know more about what it means to give my heart to Jesus and become a Christian.