

HEAVEN

Message Title: *What about Relationships in Heaven?*

Message Date: June 7, 2026

CONNECT

If new people have joined your group, take time to introduce yourselves to each other.

Here are some questions to get the conversation rolling:

1. When you think about life after death, what kinds of questions or emotions tend to come up for you?
2. How has God used another person to bring change in your life?

PRAY TOGETHER

Take a couple of minutes to let go of the day's distractions and focus your attention on God. Breathe in and out a few times. Relax your neck and take a moment to let your muscles release any tension you might be holding.

Then spend a few minutes asking God to meet each of you personally, right where you are. Pray that He would show you new and beautiful things and lead you further along your journey of faith. Allow time for everyone to pray as God leads.

STUDY AND DISCUSSION

- It's OK if you don't make it through all the questions. That's not the point. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your reflection and discussion. Spend time reading and really thinking about what the Bible is saying.
- If your group has eight or more people, it might be helpful to break into circles of four or five for greater participation and deeper discussion. When you come back together, invite each group to share a few takeaways from their conversation.

Luke 20:27-38 (NIV)

²⁷ Some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question. ²⁸ "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. ³⁰ The second ³¹ and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children. ³² Finally, the woman died too. ³³ Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?"

³⁴ Jesus replied, "The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. ³⁵ But those who are considered worthy of taking part in the age to come and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, ³⁶ and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection. ³⁷ But in the account of the burning bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

Insight: The Sadducees were a Jewish religious group in the time of Jesus. They've been described as the Jerusalem elite because of their connection to the priesthood and the temple. They held closely to the Law of Moses, but unlike groups such as the Pharisees, they denied the resurrection and future life altogether. This explains why they often resisted Jesus and the apostles, since the apostles boldly preached that Jesus had risen from the dead. After the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in A.D. 70, the Sadducees quickly disappeared from history because their influence was so closely tied to the Temple.

1. How does the opening of this passage describe the Sadducees, and what do you notice about the way they approach Jesus?
2. Why did they ask the question about the woman and her brothers? What point were they trying to make?
3. How does Jesus answer differently than they might have expected?
4. What contrast does Jesus make between *this age* and *the age to come*?
5. Does the Old Testament teach that there is, or is not, a resurrection (life after death) based on what Jesus teaches in this passage? What parts of this passage lead you to believe that?
6. Why will those considered worthy of life after death not be married (verse 35)?
7. What does it mean to be *children of the resurrection* (verse 36)?
8. What might it mean that resurrection life is not defined by the same structures, needs, or limitations we experience now?

9. What does it mean that *God is not the God of the dead, but of the living*?
10. What's one practical way you could live this week as someone whose life belongs to the God of *the living*?
11. What fear, grief or longing might this passage be touching in you?
12. Where might God be inviting you to loosen your grip on the idea that this present life has to satisfy every longing?
13. How could this passage shape the way you think about marriage, family, singleness, or relationships in light of eternity?
14. How would you summarize the main point of this passage? What's Jesus trying to get us to understand?
15. What part of this passage do you think people in our world most need to hear right now?

*We are in error when we imagine the world to come
by merely projecting upon it our earthly reality.*

Matthew Henry

Exposition of the Old and New Testaments, (the Gospel of) Luke

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Pause and ask God what He wants to say to you. Allow time for Him to speak, being sensitive to thoughts that come to mind. Growing often comes by simply making yourself available to God. Share with the group what you sense God is saying to you.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Memorizing Scripture helps us keep God's life-giving words close to our hearts wherever we go. Here's a verse to memorize based on this week's teaching:

*He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"
Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

Revelation 21:5 (NIV)

PRAY

Invite someone to close your time in prayer.