

How Can I Know I'm Going to Heaven?

1 John 5:1-5

"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too." - 1 John 5:1

Main Point: We can be confident of where we're going when we die

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Have you ever left the house and realized you forgot where you were going? Or maybe you forgot your phone/GPS and didn't know how to get there? Share your experience.

If you have brothers or sisters what is your relationship with them like? Did it require pressure from your parents to show them love? How is your relationship different/alike now?

If you've ever been unsure about where you are and how to get to safety it can be a very stressful and scary situation. Being lost does not give you the warm fuzzies. This was the case for the Ephesians. Caught between two teachings: that of the apostles and that of who John describes as the antichrists. They had no idea who to trust and how they could be sure of their eternal salvation and security in heaven. John's letter gives them the confidence they need to overcome those fears and know for sure where they were going now, and in eternity.

Read 1 John 5:1-5. You can know you're going to heaven if:

1) **YOU BELIEVE JESUS IS THE MESSIAH.** (v.1)

What evidence from scripture points to Jesus as the Messiah?

Read **Romans 10:9**. Who is it that must confess and believe? Why is a personal decision important when it comes to believing?

What does it mean to be "born of God?" What implications does this carry?

What does it mean to "believe in Jesus?" Are you willing to put your life in God's hands and go "all in" on Jesus? Why or why not?

2) **YOU KEEP HIS COMMANDS.** Read 1 JOHN 5:2-3.

Is keeping God's commands a pre-requisite for salvation? Why or why not?

Read **1 John 2:3-6** and **Matthew 7:20**. What do these verses say is the evidence of our relationship with God?

What is one of the most important commands that John points out as evidence of our faith (v.1)? Read a similar passage in **Matthew 22:37-39** and discuss why this is such a big deal.

3) **JESUS KEEPS HIS WORD. Read 1 JOHN 5:4-5.**

Where do we find victory in this world? According to **Hebrews 11:1** what should be place our hope in?

What does Jesus tell his disciples in **John 14:1-4**? How do his words bring you comfort now?

Jesus says we conquer the world when we believe in Him. Read **Romans 8:31-35**. If Jesus' word is true, what battles do you need Him to fight for you today? In what areas of your life do you need victory?

Apply It:

John writes in **1 John 5:13** that he is writing these things so we will know we have eternal life. What questions do you have about the validity of Jesus as Messiah? Is there anything holding you back from keeping his commands? If so, pray as a group that God will move you forward in your faith and that your hope would be solely in Him today.

Pray:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the opportunity we have to be born again into your family. May we trust that our belief and faith in your Son is the key to being justified in your sight. Help us to obey your commands and show your love to others that they would enter into peace with you as well.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

March 18th - The BIG Serve (Prayer walks, street clean up, Yard work for disabled, Music outreach)

March 31st - Easter Eggstravaganza (Sign up to work a station; fill goody bags and click eggs!)

April 1st - Easter Sunday (VillageKids Choir singing)

April 22nd - BIG Tent Revival

May 13th - Mother's Day: Baby Dedication, VillageKids Choir singing