

"Joy In The Everyday: Straight Outta Heaven "

Growth Group Guide

October 4, 2026

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

Every Christian has become a citizen of Heaven, our home and birth place in Christ. Before you dive into this topic, answer this: Who is your favorite superhero, or superhero origin story, and why? What other origin story do you like and why? Why does a good origin story inspire us?

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Open in prayer praising Jesus that Heaven is our home and birthplace because of our life in Him. We are his citizens! Our identity and purpose are anchored there in Him.

Psalm 57:5 NIV. "Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be over all the earth."

I worship You, Lord of heaven and earth, the God who made the world and all things in it! ... Thank you that Jesus, with His blood, purchased sons and daughters for You from every tribe and language and people and nation ... Thank you that You made Your light shine in my heart ... that You drew me to Yourself, and honored me, making me a member of Your royal family and a citizen of Your Kingdom ... and that You have enlisted me in Your worldwide task force, to be Your witness. I celebrate my high calling of knowing You and making You known! And I praise You for giving me Your Holy Spirit to fill and empower me..." (Myers, Ruth; Myers, Warren. Thirty-One Days of Praise: Enjoying God Anew (31 Days Series) (p. 91). (Function). Kindle Edition.)

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. **Read Philippians 3:20a.** Before hearing the sermon, how did you picture what it meant to be a citizen of heaven?
2. **Read Ephesians 2:1-3.** This describes what our lives were like in Adam before we gave ourselves to Jesus. What stands out about that?
3. **Read Ephesians 2:4-7.** What stands out in these verses? Is there something you've never seen before?
4. A citizen by birth is a person who automatically gains citizenship the moment they are born from the place they were born in. At birth, where they live is both their origin and home. What from Ephesians 2:4-7 shows we are this kind of citizen of heaven?
5. **Read Colossians 3:2.** Based on this verse and the verses we've been looking at, how do you think the phrase, "you're so heavenly minded, you're not earthly good" came about? That phrase isn't scripturally accurate. How can we know that from the verses we've read so far?
6. Paul's use of the word "citizenship" carries the idea of a person's behavior as a citizen of a nation. Philippi was a Roman colony on foreign soil. Paul wants us to think of being citizens of heaven who are

colonists on earth. How does this change the way you will, in dependence on God, think about yourself and live here on earth?

7. **Read Philippians 3:20b.** How does knowing you are already spiritually in heaven change your perspective about waiting for Jesus and also what it will be like when he comes again physically?
8. **Read Philippians 3:21.** Jesus is going to transform our bodies. These new bodies will have similarities to our current bodies, but will also be different (i.e., free of the power of sin, adapted to Heaven). How are you comforted and encouraged?
9. The power Jesus will use to transform our bodies is what enables Him to subject all things to Himself. **Read Ephesians 1:19-21 and Colossians 1:16-17.** What do you learn about this power He will use?
10. **Read Philippians 4:1.** Paul tells us to stand firm in Jesus. The idea is that Jesus has placed you at your post (ex. neighborhood, work, city, etc.) and gives you the power to fulfill your duty in Him. How does knowing you aren't alone but in Jesus help your perspective with this?

WALK *(Living out God's purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea:** As Christians, heaven is not a destination we are trying to reach, but is both our origin and home. You are straight outta Heaven! And living there too! It would be a mystery, but it's totally true because we are IN Him. There may be an area (neighborhood, work, city, etc.) where it's good to know you are a colonist of Heaven living on earth in Jesus. Talk to God about it today. Ask Him to empower you to be Heavenly minded and on "active duty," standing firm in your union with Jesus. As you do, your anchoring in Him will become more real experientially.

WORLD *(Embracing God's heart for others)*

Our Around the Table Gathering joyfully prays for our local community, our church, and Lane County. Some of our prayer points come from the See The City prayer guides from One Hope. In the most recent edition, these praise reports were shared: 1) Open Doors at a High School - As a local church engaged with a high school to plan a Project Hope Work Day, the principal took it a step further. They requested a meeting with the youth pastor and other youth pastors in the area to talk about partnerships to better serve kids! **Pray for our local youth pastors as God begins to open new doors for them to impact the youth in our public schools.** 2) E.R. Breakthrough - We prayed for a solution to the dispute between PeaceHealth leadership and the Eugene Emergency Physicians. The Oregon Legislature affirmed a new law that requires practices to be led by doctors licensed in Oregon. This is a clear answer to prayer for truth in the Oregon Legislature, for the ER dispute, and for patient care to be prioritized over profit! **Pray for positive relationships, more staff and synergistic efforts to care for patients.** (One Hope/September-December 2026/ See The City prayer guide, Pages. 4 & 6.)

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