

**Thank you for your interest in doing this Bible study! It is designed as a short, four-lesson study perfect for an evangelism “intensive” in a Sunday School class or a small group.**

**Each of the four lessons contains a Bible Study, A “My Personal Journey” Journaling Exercise, and a Small Group Leader’s Guide.**

Here are some commonly asked questions you should think about before beginning this study:

### **WHAT SHOULD THIS STUDY BE USED FOR?**

A group study of *Heaven: My Father’s House* is appropriate for home and neighborhood groups, Bible study classes, Sunday School classes, accountability groups, discipleship and prayer groups, and one-on-one discipleship. The study will benefit adults of all ages. This material is particularly appropriate for a focused delivery of the gospel as the lessons are designed to present the message of Heaven in four, short units. Therefore, a Sunday School class or small group may use the materials as a summer “intensive” over one month to introduce visitors to the gospel or to invite new members to the class.

### **WHEN?**

Meet at a time appropriate for your participants. Sessions can be conducted weekly, monthly, or any interval in between. Group sessions are designed to last 60 minutes each, but allow the Holy Spirit to determine your schedule. Group plans in this section serve as framework; your goal should be to meet the needs of your group.

### **WHERE?**

Participants can meet at the church or in a home or business; anywhere that will accommodate a DVD or computer screen set-up and is conducive for discussion and prayer.

### **HOW?**

Follow the Small Group Leader’s Guide for each session. Before beginning your planning, however, you should make time to:

- Read over all of the written materials as preparation for this new format.
- Pray for group members who will attend.
- Prepare material for the session; this includes securing equipment to show the video presentation.
- Encourage group members.
- Contact participants who were absent after each session.

As you work through these materials, if you have questions please contact us here <http://www.annegrahamlotz.org/contact/>.

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# HEAVEN

*My Father's House*

## Group Study Materials List

This chart lists the printed materials needed for this study.

MATERIAL:	INTENDED FOR:	DISTRIBUTE AT:	DISCUSS AT:
<b>LESSON I: HEAVEN IS BEAUTIFUL IN ITS PREPARATION</b>			
1) Bible Study			
• Bible Study Instructions	All	Session 1	Session 1
• Bible Study Example	All	Session 1	Session 1
• Bible Study (Revelation 21:1-3)	All	Session 1	Session 1
2) My Personal Journey	All	Session 1	Session 1
3) Leader's Guide			
• Group Study Orientation	Leaders		
• Group Study Materials List	Leaders		
• Small Group Leader's Guide	Leaders		
<b>LESSON II: HEAVEN IS BEAUTIFUL IN ITS PERFECTION</b>			
1) Bible Study (Revelation 21:4-6)	All	Session 1	Session 2
2) My Personal Journey	All	Session 1	Session 2
3) Leader's Guide	Leaders		
<b>LESSON III: HEAVEN IS BEAUTIFUL IN ITS PRESENTATION</b>			
1) Bible Study (Revelation 21:9-14)	All	Session 1	Session 3
2) My Personal Journey	All	Session 1	Session 3
3) Leader's Guide	Leaders		
<b>LESSON IV: HEAVEN IS BEAUTIFUL IN ITS POPULATION</b>			
1) Bible Study (Revelation 21:7-8, 22-27)	All	Session 1	Session 4
2) My Personal Journey	All	Session 1	Session 4
3) "You're Invited" Invitation	All	Session 4	Session 4
4) Leader's Guide	Leaders		

# HEAVEN

## *My Father's House* ...IS BEAUTIFUL IN ITS PREPARATION

## Lesson 1: Leader's Guide

**A NOTE FROM ANNE:** Welcome to your first glimpse of heaven as the apostle John describes it! Following John's incredulous gaze, you're going to see what God is lovingly preparing for you. Every detail of heaven is specifically and thoughtfully designed to make you and me feel welcomed and at home. Think about all of the preparations we make for big events in our lives—graduations, births, weddings, birthdays, vacations, trips, funerals—just planning the routine of our daily lives requires careful attention. On a much grander, eternal scale, we can be assured that every aspect of heaven is being perfectly thought out for us. As you begin this guided tour of *Heaven: My Father's House*, rejoice as you look forward with hope to a place that is being prepared just for you!

### GETTING READY:

- Print out copies of all the written materials noted in the Group Study Materials List for distribution at this session. Allow one set per participant. Remember to estimate for extras.
- In order to familiarize yourself with the material before leading others through it:
  - Complete Lesson 1 materials before the session.
  - Watch Lesson 1 of the video before the session.
- PRAY that each of the participants would understand the instructions and Bible study format; that even on this first session, they would draw meaningful lessons and applications from Revelation 21:1-3, which they would be willing to share in the group; that the fellowship would be warm and loving; that they would be blessed by the video segment and be eager to return for the second session.

**TIMETABLE:** For a one hour meeting, the following format may be helpful:

*(Note: This session introduces the tools needed to complete the study successfully. Subsequent sessions will allow more time for discussion of the passages and the video lessons.)*

MINUTE	WHAT TO COVER	SPECIAL NOTES
		As participants enter, have written materials available for pickup.
:00-:05	Introduction/Opening Prayer	At this first session, introduce yourself and give your contact information. If it can be done quickly, ask the participants to introduce themselves. It may be helpful in a larger group to provide name tags. Also, ensure that all participants have picked up the written materials.
:05-:11	Explanation of Bible Study Sessions	Explain the structure of this four session study. Each of the four sessions in this Bible study will consist of five segments each: an introduction that will help you get started with the group, a group discussion that enables the participants to share what they have discovered in their study at home, a brief video presentation on the passage studied in that session, a summation of the study and follow-up discussion, and a conclusion.

	Instructions on the Bible Study Method	Give instructions on the five step process participants will use to study the Bible for these sessions. Read through the Bible Study Instructions and Example (John 14-1:3). Use these to explain how to complete each of the steps.
:11-:14		Turn to the Bible Study Sheets for Lesson 1: Heaven is Beautiful in Its Preparation (Revelation 21:1-3).  Ask all participants to read the three verses (Revelation 21:1-3) to themselves (Step 1) and prepare a verse by verse list of facts (Step 2). Remind participants to be literal. Do not paraphrase.
:14-:16		Ask a volunteer to give a verse by verse list of facts. (Make sure the volunteer has not paraphrased, but instead, uses the literal words from the passage. If the volunteer has paraphrased, ask for another volunteer or share your own.)
:16-:22	Group Discussion	Instruct the entire group to complete Step 3 by drawing at least one lesson or principle from each fact in Step 2. Before they begin answering, divide them into groups of two to four people. No group should be larger than four or someone will possibly be left out of the discussion. If this was not done earlier, or if the group is large enough that the participants will not remember names, ask participants to briefly introduce themselves to the others in their small group, then proceed. Each participant should write out the lessons as the group discusses them in order to be prepared to proceed to Step 4.
:22-:27		Ask two volunteers, each from a different group, to share a lesson or principle (Step 3) with the entire group, beginning with the first verse and going verse by verse.
:27-30		Ask each participant to consider the lessons or principles from all three verses. Then, instruct them to complete Step 4 by taking a few moments and thoughtfully writing out the lessons or principles in the form of questions.
:30-:35		Ask volunteers to share the questions that seemed most meaningful, citing the lesson and the verse on which each question was based.
:35-:40		In this first session, ask if anyone has any questions on this method.
:40-:53	Video Presentation	Turn to the My Personal Journey worksheet. Note that Step 6 of the Bible Study is on this sheet. Suggest that the sheet be used for note taking as the participants now watch the video from Section 1.
:53-:57	Summation	Ask volunteers to share any encouragement, challenge, or inspiration that they received personally from the video teaching.

In subsequent sessions, you will have more time to discuss specific issues around the video teaching and your responses from Step 5.

Remind the group that the next section will focus on the fact that heaven is a perfect place. God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Every pain and problem will disappear. There will be no more suffering or sorrow or stress or separation from loved ones. The hope offered in that promise is reason enough to come back and learn more.

:57-1:00

Conclusion

Wrap up this section by explaining that each member should complete the My Personal Journey worksheet for this first section, the Bible Study for Lesson 2, and Step 5 on the My Personal Journey worksheet for Lesson 2 before the next meeting. Close in prayer.

During your closing prayer, you might want to thank God that He is preparing heaven for you and for me. Pray that this study will help prepare us to live with Him there.

# HEAVEN

*My Father's House* ...IS BEAUTIFUL IN ITS PERFECTION

## Lesson 2: Leader's Guide

**A NOTE FROM ANNE:** Are you suffering in some way today either emotionally or spiritually or physically? Are you haunted by memories from the past? Are you struggling with the pain of being separated from someone you love? There is hope! Because heaven is beautiful in its perfection! All of the scars from this life will simply disappear. Any emotional or physical baggage you bring to heaven will be checked at the door, and there will be no more separation from your loved ones in Christ or your Lord—forever. Our heavenly Father is going to make everything new! As you lead this session, ask God to give you a fresh awareness of the hope you have because heaven is a perfect place! And ask Him to further enlarge your heart for those who are without Christ and therefore are truly hopeless.

### GETTING READY:

- Print out extra copies of the Lesson 2, 3, and 4 Materials (Bible Study and My Personal Journey Sheets) for this session for newcomers and for those who may have left materials at home.
- In order to familiarize yourself with the material before leading others through it:
  - Complete Lesson 2 materials before the session.
  - Watch Lesson 2 of the video before the session.
- PRAY for the participants who will be attending. Pray that God will stir a longing in them for heaven.

TIMETABLE: For a one hour meeting, the following format may be helpful:

MINUTE	WHAT TO COVER	SPECIAL NOTES
		As participants enter, have additional materials available for pick-up.
:00-:05	Introduction	At this session, you should welcome new participants. Use this time to reflect on what you have learned since thinking about the fact that heaven is prepared for you. You may want to ask one or two volunteers to share any insights that came out of completing the My Personal Journey Worksheet from the previous session.
:05-:31	Group Discussion	Ask a participant to read aloud the scripture for this session (Revelation 21:4-6). Ask a volunteer to read his or her list of facts. Ask two volunteers for each verse to share the lessons they learned in response to Step 3, "Learn the Lessons." Ask volunteers to share the most meaningful questions they wrote out in response to Step 4, "Listen to His Voice," citing the lesson and the verse on which each question was based. Ask a volunteer to share what God seems to be saying to them through the study of Revelation 21:4-6, Step 5.
:31-:39	Video Presentation	Watch the video from Lesson 2. Suggest that the My Personal Journey worksheets be used for note taking.

:39-:51	Summation	Ask volunteers to share any encouragement, challenge, or inspiration that they received personally from the video teaching.
:51-:55		<p>The following questions may help you stimulate discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What aspect of heaven from this section do you most look forward to and why?</li> <li>2. Who else in your life needs the hope and encouragement found in this section?</li> </ol> <p>If someone comes to mind, share their first name and ask the group to pray with you for them. Pray that God will open their hearts to the truth, and that He will give you the opportunity to share it with them.</p> <p>Watch the “Anne’s Father’s House” slide show.</p>
:55-1:00	Conclusion	<p>The next session will focus on the reality that heaven is a physical place. One day, the preparation will be complete, and we will enjoy its perfection. We will gaze upon its glory, enter its pearly gates, walk on its golden streets, and live safely forever within its thick walls! The next session is a thrilling tour of our Father’s House that has incredible application for our lives today.</p> <p>Conclude this section by explaining that each member should complete the My Personal Journey worksheet for this section, the Bible Study for Lesson 3, and Step 5 on the My Personal Journey worksheet for Lesson 3 before the next meeting. Close in prayer.</p>

# HEAVEN

## *My Father's House* ...IS BEAUTIFUL IN ITS PRESENTATION

## Lesson 3: Leader's Guide

**A NOTE FROM ANNE:** In this section, gaze with me in wonder as we follow John's tour of the actual structure Jesus described as My Father's House. It is beautiful in its presentation. From the foundation to the walls to the gates to the streets, heaven is a spectacular place! And it is so big, there is room enough for anyone and everyone who chooses to go there. As you complete this section, be praying about the people you need to invite to join you in My Father's House.

### GETTING READY:

- Print out extra copies of the Lesson 3 and 4 Materials (Bible Study and My Personal Journey Sheets) for this session for newcomers and for those who may have left materials at home.
- In order to familiarize yourself with the material before leading others through it:
  - Complete Lesson 3 materials before the session.
  - Watch Lesson 3 of the video before the session.
- PRAY for the participants who will be attending. Pray that they will take each physical aspect of heaven and make personal application to their own lives here on earth.

TIMETABLE: For a one hour meeting, the following format may be helpful:

MINUTE	WHAT TO COVER	SPECIAL NOTES
		As participants enter, have additional materials available for pick-up.
:00-:05	Introduction	Welcome new participants. Review any blessings you received this past week as you have reflected on the glorious truth that heaven is beautiful in its perfection. You may want to ask one or two volunteers to share any insights that came out of completing the My Personal Journey worksheet from the previous session.
:05-:31	Group Discussion	Ask a participant to read aloud the scripture for this session (Revelation 21:9-14). Ask a volunteer to read his or her list of facts. Ask two volunteers for each verse to share the lessons they learned in response to Step 3, "Learn the Lessons." Ask volunteers to share the most meaningful questions they wrote out in response to Step 4, "Listen to His Voice," citing the lesson and the verse on which each question was based. Ask a volunteer to share what God seems to be saying to them through the study of Revelation 21:9-14, Step 5.
:31-:44	Video Presentation	Watch the video from Lesson 3. Suggest that the My Personal Journey worksheets be used for note taking.
:44-:57	Summation	Ask volunteers to share any encouragement, challenge, or inspiration that they received personally from the video teaching.



Choose a few of the following questions to help stimulate discussion:

- What to you is the most beautiful physical aspect of your heavenly home?
- What is the most meaningful?
- What is a practical step parents of young children can take to help ensure their child's eternal security?
- What is a practical step parents of teenagers can take to help ensure their eternal security?
- What can you do as a grandparent to help your grandchildren be safe forever?
- What treasures have you laid up in heaven? How could you adjust the way you invest your time, money, and energy in order to increase your heavenly treasures?
- How would you answer the argument from this passage that there are many ways to heaven, and all religions are equal?

:57-1:00

Conclusion

Remind the participants that the next and last session will focus on the population of heaven. They have received a glimpse of what heaven is like through this study. In this next section they will discover how to make sure they know how to RSVP to God's invitation to live there forever—and to make sure that they tell others how they can be sure that My Father's House is their heavenly home, too.

Conclude this section by explaining that each member should complete the My Personal Journey worksheet for this section, the Bible Study for Lesson 4, and Step 5 on the My Personal Journey worksheet for Lesson 4 before the next meeting. Close in prayer.

# HEAVEN

## *My Father's House* ...IS BEAUTIFUL IN ITS POPULATION

## Lesson 4: Leader's Guide

**A NOTE FROM ANNE: Praise God for His standing invitation to live with Him forever in His heavenly home! But just as you must RSVP to an invitation to The White House or Buckingham Palace or even a friend's wedding, only those who respond to the Father's invitation will be welcomed into heaven. In this section, you will clearly learn how to respond so that on the day you step into eternity, you will be welcomed into the Father's House because you are the Father's child. What peace it gives to know heaven is open to failures and to sinners, to the weak and to the strong, to the famous and to the obscure, to the rich and to the poor, to the young and to the old—it is open to all who are members of God's family. His grace is truly amazing as He looks past our weaknesses and meets our deepest need, providing an eternal future that enables each of us to look forward...with hope. As this study comes to a conclusion, pray that each participant will know for sure that their RSVP has been "sent in"—and challenge them to tell others how they also can be sure that heaven is their home.**

### GETTING READY:

- Print out extra copies of the Lesson 4 Materials (Bible Study and My Personal Journey Sheets) for this session for newcomers and for those who may have left materials at home.
- Print out two invitations to Heaven ("You're Invited") for each participant: one to complete personally, and one to prayerfully give to someone else.
- Bring AnGeL Ministries' contact information to give to participants who want more information about making a decision for Christ: [www.annegrahamlotz.org](http://www.annegrahamlotz.org) and 5115 Hollyridge Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612.
- In order to familiarize yourself with the material before leading others through it:
  - Complete Lesson 4 materials before the session.
  - Watch Lesson 4 of the video before the session.
- PRAY for the participants that will be attending. Pray that each one will be assured heaven is their eternal home and that they would feel compelled to tell others about how they can be sure it is theirs also.

TIMETABLE: For a one hour meeting, the following format may be helpful:

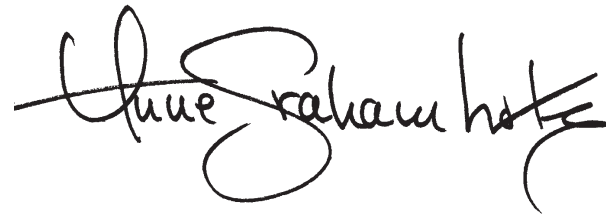
MINUTE	WHAT TO COVER	SPECIAL NOTES
		As participants enter, have additional materials available for pick-up.
:00-:05	Introduction/Greeting	Welcome any new participants, suggesting how they can make up the first three sessions. Reflect on the highlights of the previous sessions on preparation, perfection, and presentation of heaven. You may want to read Anne's note above, or excerpts from it, to introduce this final session.
:05-:30	Bible Study Group Discussion	Ask a participant to read aloud the scripture for this session (Revelation 21:7-8 and 21:22-27). Ask for a volunteer to read his or her list of facts. Ask two volunteers for each verse to share the lessons they learned in response to Step 3, "Learn the Lessons." Ask for volunteers to share the most

meaningful questions they wrote out in response to Step 4, “Listen to His Voice,” citing the lesson and the verse on which each question was based. Ask a volunteer to share what God seems to be saying to them through the study of Revelation 21:7-8 and 21:22-24, Step 5.

:30-:48	Video Presentation	Watch the video from Lesson 4. Suggest that the My Personal Journey worksheets be used for note taking.
:48-:58	Summation	<p>Ask volunteers to share any encouragement, challenge, or inspiration that they received personally from the entire study.</p> <p>During the Wrap-Up and Prayer Time the following questions may help you stimulate discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain how you would tell an unsaved friend how a person can be sure his or her name is recorded in the Lamb’s Book of Life.</li><li>• What one blessing, insight, challenge, or encouragement stands out from your entire study of <i>Heaven: My Father’s House</i>?</li></ul>
:58-1:00	Conclusion	Wrap up the study by making the participants aware that they may contact you or AnGeL Ministries if they have decided to make a decision for Christ. Encourage them to continue reading God’s Word and to regularly attend a local church for support and accountability. Hand out invitations to Heaven. Explain that they are for personal use, and challenge them to pray about who to give the second one to. Close in prayer.

Dear Leader,

Thank you for caring enough to lead this study. I pray that there will be much eternal fruit as a result and that God will give you enough of a glimpse of it that you will be personally encouraged. “We always thank God for you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3). I look forward with joy to seeing you one day in My Father’s House!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chue Raham Hote". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.