

WHAT'S AFTER

- What's After Life? -

Ice-Breakers:

- What is your impression of near-death experiences (NDEs)?
- Have you, or someone you know, had one? If so, share this experience with the group.

Questions:

- Why do you think people don't like to think or talk a lot about death?
- Read John 14:1-6. How does this passage bring us comfort as Christians?
- Read aloud the following excerpts from Revelation 21 and 22.

"I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, 'Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever...' So he took me in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious stone—like jasper as clear as crystal... The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass. The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve precious stones: the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass... I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light... Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. It flowed down the center of the main street... No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. And there will be no night there - no need for lamps or sun - for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever." (Revelation 21-22, excerpts)

What strikes you about John's description of heaven in Revelation 21-22?

- Read I Corinthians 2:9 and II Corinthians 12:1-4. Why do you suppose there are certain things about heaven Paul was not permitted to tell?
- As you think about the number of people who have had a near-death experience, and the scientific studies done, are you inclined to give some validity to them? Why or why not?

Application:

This week, commit to read the little book, *"What's After Life?"*