

SESSION 10

NEW HEAVENS, NEW EARTH

SESSION AIMS

To explore the establishment and growth of the church as well as the lives of those who followed the teachings of Jesus. To discover what the Bible teaches about the end of the world.

BIBLE REFERENCE

GENESIS 12–50

GAME: WOULD YOU RATHER...?

Would you rather...

*Ask someone out and risk them saying no
or
say nothing?*

Would you rather...

*Give your answer in class/youth group and risk being wrong
or
sit in silence while nobody speaks?*

Would you rather...

*Give extravagantly and risk running out of things
or
keep everything to yourself?*

Would you rather...

*Stand up for what you think and risk others not liking it
or
keep quiet?*

Would you rather...

*Be nice to someone new and risk them not being nice back
or
leave them on their own with no friends?*

WEEK 9 RECAP

Last week we looked at Jesus' death and resurrection, exploring some of the historical evidence for these events. We considered how Jesus chose to give up his life — since he had the power to prevent his death but did not use it — and the purpose of Jesus' death as a sacrifice for the sins of his people to restore their relationship with the Father. We also looked at how Jesus did not remain in the tomb after death but came back to life three days later and interacted with many witnesses.

WHAT ARE WE COVERING THIS WEEK?

This week we'll consider what happened once Jesus left Earth and returned to heaven. What did his followers do without him? What did their lives look like? How did the message about Jesus spread so that billions of people follow him today? We'll also look at what the Bible says about the end of the world.

WATCH THE EPISODE

GROUP WORK

Discuss: Why do you think Jesus' followers continued spreading the message about him when they faced persecution? Can you imagine anything being worth sacrificing your comfort, or even your life, for?

- *The message was true*
- *They considered it worth dying for*
- *They knew this life was not all they would have, but looked forward to the new creation*

The message of the Bible has been heard by billions of people, and it has been the bestselling book each year for many years, and yet it all started with just a few ordinary people. What does that make you feel about the significance of your life and what you could do with it?

Some young people will be Christians and may express something of wanting to live for God and knowing his help in what they do with their lives. Others may express different sentiments, but all are made in the image of God, so encourage each person of their worth and help them to consider the potential for impact through their lives.

Have you ever considered eternal life? What do you think about what the Bible teaches?

Some pupils may not believe this, others may express they are unsure or do believe. Encourage those who are unsure to consider exploring this further and make up their own minds. Can those who don't believe give reasons why they reject the Bible's message? Encourage them to consider whether they would want to give this any thought.

PRAY TO CLOSE