

## Look

What exactly is heaven--what is it like? Where is it and who really gets to go? These are questions religious and non-religious people ask at some point in their lives but most often when faced with the death of a loved one.

1. Describe a time when you felt these questions weigh heavily on you. Was it when you were facing a loss? How did you deal with them?
2. In what way might a person's views on death and heaven impact the way in which they live?
3. What is heaven to you? What influences or has influenced this view? How does it impact the way you live?

## Book

### *Matthew 5:1-12*

Jesus shares the Beatitudes with his disciples.

1. What type of message was this from Jesus to his disciples? What does it say for us as His followers today?
2. Each Beatitude begins with the word "blessed" followed by who is blessed and how. Do you think those blessings will be instantaneous? When might they occur?
3. Verses 11-12 probably sounded as strange to the disciples then as they do to us today. What might Jesus have meant?

## Took

The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. So, even if life is very bad for you, you don't have to wait until eternity to experience God's love and acceptance and God's help and the power of Jesus' Spirit. You can practice living in this Way right now.

1. What does the Kingdom of Heaven mean to you? Do you see yourself as living in God's kingdom right now? Explain.
2. How can you practice living in this Way? How might that change your life circumstances?
3. If we truly live life as if the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, will this have an impact on our view of death and eternity? In what way?