

# **On Earth as it is in Heaven...**

## **Nick Person**

### **Small Group Notes**

#### **Introduction:**

**What is a way that you have seen the church be an intersection of heaven and earth? What are times that it may be difficult to see this in the church?**

**What does it mean that the church is God's resume` for His kingdom?**

#### **Discuss:**

1. Read Matthew 6:9-13

For Jesus' disciples, calling God "Father" would've seemed too personal and familiar. Also, praying directly to God without the intercession of a priest was a revolutionary concept. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, all believers gained direct access to God. Jesus died for this purpose—that we might relate to God in an ongoing way. Therefore, the command to abide in Christ is a life-changing one—the Son of God Himself not only allows us to draw near to Him, He commands it. Further, He promises that once we are walking connected closely to Him, our prayer will be powerful, our actions will have impact, and our joy will be full especially as we walk with one another.

**Read Hebrews 10:19-25. What words or phrases do you see in this passage that connect to Jesus' prayer in Matthew 6? What things do you see that are unique in what the writer of Hebrews says?**

**How will your appreciation for God's grace lead you to show grace to others this week? Give examples of situations you might face where you will need to show love and grace to those around you.**

**Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. How do these verses encourage you to see others in the church? How can you practically support the body of believers, your brothers and sisters in Christ?**

2. Read 1 Corinthians 5:16-21

Just as we were made a new creation when we became Christians, so God is willing and able to make new creations out of anyone else we come in contact with. We are His agents in this process as we actively seek to share the gospel with others. Therefore, an ambassador is committed to representing the values of his or her home kingdom even while living in a foreign land. They are first and foremost citizens of another country, and they live displaced specifically for the purpose of representing that other

country. Because we are new creations in Christ, we have a new home. While we are here on earth, we represent God and His kingdom wherever we go.

**An ambassador can be defined as an authorized representative or messenger appointed for a special task. What are some responsibilities we have as ambassadors? How can ambassadors be effective if they do not know who they represent or what they are expected to do?**

**On a scale of 1 to 10, how conscious of God's purpose of reconciliation are you from day to day? How would being more aware of God's purpose make your life as a believer more contagious?**

**How would your life change if you saw yourself (first and foremost) as one sent by God on His mission?**

3. Read Revelation 7:9-12

John then saw a multitude of people too numerous to be counted who offered praise to God for their salvation. Furthermore, the angels and four creatures all responded in praise to God for all His works. In heaven, people from all ethnicities and cultures will worship God together for the salvation He provides through the Son.

**What do you think to be most remarkable about this great multitude? How can you share in the same song they are singing?**

**How does the cry of the multitude lead to the praise offered by the four living creatures? How is what the four creatures say connected to what was cried by the multitude?**

**How does today's discussion help you to live out God's will on earth as it is in heaven?**