

Introduction: *Engage your group by stimulating curiosity.*

Ask your class to think about what they think heaven will be like and what they will be doing when they get there. Have the class share their answers with each other. For this exercise, the goal is not to critique the answers but to stimulate their thinking. Don't discourage participation by commenting on their answers however uninformed they may be.

Part 1: *Help your group members grasp the main thrust of the lesson using "Think-Pair-Share."*

Ask, "How do we celebrate accomplishments today (for example, weddings, graduations, and retirements)?"

Think-Pair-Share: Then ask your group members, "Do you think it is important to celebrate accomplishments? Why or why not?" "**Think** for 30 seconds about this question...Now I want you to discuss this in **pairs** with a person on your left or your right who is not your spouse." (Pause for 60 seconds). Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

Part 2: *Help your group members understand a key concept in the lesson.*

This section focuses on the bride being welcomed to the table of the King. In Revelation 19:7, it states that "His wife has prepared herself." Read this verse to your group and then ask them how a bride prepares for a wedding and its aftermath. Then ask, "How can we as the bride of Christ prepare ourselves to meet our Groom?" A passage that might be helpful if your group is having a difficult time with this question is 1 John 3:1-3.

Part 3: *Help your students grasp the importance of the concept in this lesson.*

Ask your students to name injustices that have taken place that have never been corrected (i.e., the Jewish holocaust of World War II, unsolved murders and other crimes, etc.). Ask, “Is it important that justice be pursued when injustice has happened? Why or why not?”

Then focus on the fact that one day Jesus Christ will defeat all evil and rule and reign righteously. Say, “God thinks justice is so important that He sent His Son to die for sin. He also is sending Him back to the earth to judge all unrighteousness.”

Ask your students to think about the fact that Jesus is coming back and to examine their lives in light of this truth. If the confession and forsaking of sin is necessary, encourage them not to delay dealing with this.

Conclusion: *Challenge your students to live the lesson.*

As you finish a quarter, it is important to look back and help your students see what they have learned and how it has impacted their lives. One suggestion would be to give them a “final exam.” Give them a blank sheet of paper and tell them it is time for their “final exam.” Keep them in suspense about it. Tell them that their task is to write down what they have learned during the last 13 weeks. They are allowed to make this an “open book exam.” You can now tell them that they won’t be graded on this project.

After each student has finished, have the full group generate a list that you put on the board. Facilitate a discussion on these items so that they can see what they have learned, how God has changed them, and realize the benefits of attending their class.

Teaching Tip of the Week

It is important that a teacher not only know the subject and the students, but they must also be familiar with the classroom. It is important to note the little things that can make a big impact on the class. Is the room too warm or cold? Is the lighting adequate? Is there too much noise from surrounding areas? Can the students see the teacher, the board, and each other? As teachers, we can make a difference not only in what we teach, how we teach, and who we are but also in preparing our classrooms for the best possible lesson presentation. We are teaching eternal truths.

It would be tragic if our students aren't giving their full attention to the lesson because they were distracted by a controllable circumstance.