

Can You Imagine. . . .

➤ Intro:

- some things are hard to imagine because we don't have a clear point of reference
 - What's it like to die? – peacefully, drown, suffocate, crushed in a car wreck, fall off a cliff
 - since we've not experienced death, it's difficult to imagine death
- this lesson: Can you imagine. . . . – spiritual things hard to imagine

➤ Can you imagine what it will be like when Jesus comes to take us to heaven?

- R - Phil. 3:20-21 eagerly wait for Savior, transform body, exertion of power
- - R - Col. 3:3-4 when Christ revealed, it will be revealed what you'll be – spiritual body
- - R - 2 Th. 1:6-10; 1 Th. 4:13-17 What will happen?

➤ Can you imagine what it will be like to stand before God (Jesus) in judgment?

- R - Is. 6:1-5 Isaiah's reaction to being in God's presence – you?
- - Rev. 20:11-15 (rf - Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 5:10) imagine what it will be like to stand before the throne of God / Christ in judgment
- - R - Heb. 12:25-29 sinners: God a consuming fire / Christians: unshakable kingdom
- R - 1 Jn. 4:17-18 Christians: love casts out all fear - judgment

➤ Can you imagine what it will be like to live in heaven?

- R - 1 Cor. 2:9-10 more awesome than mortal mind can imagine – eye not seen and ear not heard - but God revealed - not entered heart of mortal mind apart from what God has revealed – can't imagine with human mind
- - R - 2 Cor. 12:4 exact description not lawful to be communicated
- - R - Rev. 4:1, 8-11 what heaven is like around God's throne
- - R - Rev. 21:1-7, 16 symbolic description of city - heaven
 - stats: heavenly city
 - 2,250,000 square miles – a city about 2/3 the sized of the US
 - 3,375,000,000 cubic miles – a city about 2/3 size of US that goes up 1,500 miles
 - city would extend up about 7 times farther than the International Space Station
 - 792,000 floors high, if there is a floor every ten feet, the city would be – imagine walking up
- - R - Rev. 22:1-5 worshiping God before His throne – see His face

➤ Heaven is so awesome. . . .

- R - Phil. 2:5-7 Jesus left heaven to save us, so we could go there
- - R - Phil. 2:8; rf - Heb. 5:9 Jesus died on the cross so we could go there
- - R - 2 Cor. 11:24-28 the apostles suffered extreme persecution so we could go there – Paul saw things he was not permitted to tell us (2 Cor. 12)
- - R - Jn. 19:25-27 Mary watched her Son die without objecting, and went to John's house to live

➤ Summary / Inv.

- Can you imagine. . . .
 - what it will be like when Jesus comes to take us home to heaven?
 - standing before God (Jesus) in judgment?
 - living in heaven for eternity?
 - a place so great, a mother would watch her son be crucified and not object
- inv.: we want you to be in heaven with us, not left behind to be punished