



SRMBC SEPTEMBER 2018 BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Lesson Title	Date	Scripture/Movie
Week 1 – Imagine a Loving Father	9/5/2018	Matthew 3
Week 2 – Imagine Forgiveness	9/12/2018	Luke 15
Week 3 – Imagine Redemption	9/19/2018	Luke 4
Week 4 – Imagine Going Home	9/26/2018	John 14
SRMBC Family Movie Night?	TBD	"I Can Only Imagine"

ABOUT MERCY ME



MercyMe is an inspirational Christian band with a rich musical repertoire. They're the lighter side of Christian music—contemporary Christian music that is designed to be a praise and worship experience.

Among their best hits:

- **"I Can Only Imagine"** is a glorious view of what Heaven will look like when we finally get to see Jesus face-to-face.
- **"Bring the Rain"** speaks passionately about learning to stand with Jesus in spite of circumstance—of getting through the hard times by leaning on God.
- **"Word of God Speak"** calls to God to speak down his message to the world—this song won a number of awards, even being named Christian Song of the Decade by Billboard magazine in 2009.
- **"Greater"** shouts out that it doesn't matter what all the voices of the world tell you as long as you know who you are in Christ and what He says about you—because He is greater than all the powers of the world.

ABOUT BART M. MILLARD OF MERCY ME



- Bart Marshall Millard (born December 1, 1972) is an American singer and songwriter who is best known as the leader of the band MercyMe. Bart wrote the lyrics of "I Can Only Imagine" in just ten minutes.
- The song was inspired by the loss of his father, who was abusive before being diagnosed with cancer and transformed by faith in Jesus Christ.
- Millard is from Greenville, Texas. He and his wife Shannon have five children: Sam, Gracie, Charlie, Sophie and Miles.

ABOUT "I CAN ONLY IMAGINE" - THE MOVIE



In the film, I Can Only Imagine, the life story of MercyMe lead singer Bart Millard is told for the first time.

Bart grew up with an abusive father and a distant mother, and in early adulthood, came face to face with his own deep need for acceptance.

His lack of love from his earthly father challenged his faith and hope in his heavenly Father.



SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

I Can Only Imagine:
Week 4 – Imagine Going Home
John 14:1 – 4; 18, 23

Group Discussion

We all experience "Home" in different ways. What does home mean to you? Is it a place, a feeling, a relationship or a combination of things?

Home as a Place

- My current home – My sanctuary, place of peace and comfort
- Philly – a familiar place not matter where I go it is special
- Home as Relationship
- My old friends and family who really know me and love me



Home as a Feeling

- I even think of Home as a feeling – the joy of getting an authentic Cheesesteak
- I get a very special feeling when I go out on the old playgrounds/Basketball courts.
- Seeing my old house where I grew up – along with my old schools

John 14:1 – 4; 18, 23 (NKJV)

1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

4 And where I go you know, and the way you know."

18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

1. Have you ever had a word, phrase, or scripture verse stay with you in a significant way? Why did it have such an influence on you?



When Bart was struggling to find the words for one last song he came back to the words,
"I Can Only Imagine"

*"Have I not commanded you? **Be strong** and of **good courage**; do **not be afraid**, nor **be dismayed**, for the **Lord your God** is **with you** wherever you go."* Joshua 1:9 (NKJV)

2. Think about the incredible stories of lives changed by Bart's song. How do these stories encourage you? What do these stories say about the God who changes hearts and lives?

I. The Woman who was going to commit suicide

- God sees us – where we are
- God can use many things to get our attention
- God is in Control
- God loves us and will move heaven and earth to bring us to Jesus

II. The Soldier at Ft. Hood

- God uses us to impact people in ways we may not realize
- God is concerned about the salvation of everyone
- God's Gospel is not limited – (time, place, people)
- God uses our lives when we are committed to Him.

3. Can you recall a time when you longed for home in your life?

- When I was in the Hospital (Especially dealing with the Hospital food).
- When I was on vacation (No matter how good the vacation is - there is no place like home).
- When I was overseas in Desert Storm in Iraq – the US is the greatest place to be

For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.
II Corinthians 5:2-4 (NKJV)

John 14:1 – 4; 18, 23 (NKJV)

- 1 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.
- 2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
- 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.
- 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know.”
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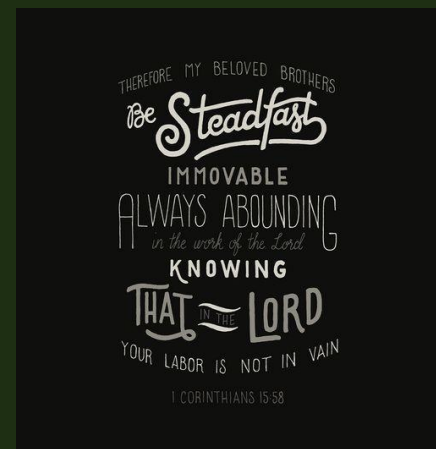
4. How does this passage (John 14) change the way you think about home and heaven and all your longings for a safe and never – ending place of love and acceptance

Key Points

- I/We are not home yet – While this is a place of trouble – my heart doesn't need to be troubled for I am going home.
- Jesus has the authority of God the Father – We can trust Him and His promises.
- Jesus is preparing a place in heaven just for me (PTL)
- He will come back and take me to my new place – a place of Joy and Peace
- We will be with Jesus – although I have never seen Him – O I want to see Him
- In the meantime, whatever I need to make it in this troubled world from “Home” I can ask of Jesus - now.

5. Bart points out that once we are joined to Christ our eternal life has already begun How does this reality give you hope in your current challenges, trials and struggles?

- **Temporary Troubles** (II Cor 2:17 – 18)
- **Permanent Presence** (Matt 28 :20; Heb. 13:5 -6)
- **Fantastic Future** - (John 14:1 – 3; Rev 22:1 – 5)
- **Real Rewards** (Matt, 25:23, II Tim 4:8)



6. Bart says deep down, we want to believe there's something more than just death. How have you sensed that throughout life?

- When I graduated H.S. – Once I finished school - then what?
- When first felt the conviction of sin – from really hearing the Gospel
- After my very 1st hangover (There has got to be more...)
- After my Dad died – that was the 1st close family member I lost and had me questioning everything.

Is there more to life
than **this**?



7. How does your faith in heaven and eternal life change the way you think, relate and life here and now?

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.
Colossians 3:23 – 24

I. Hope Brings A Holy Passion

- a. Inclusive Passion
- b. Invigorated Passion
- c. Incentivized Passion

II. Hope Brings From A Heavenly Perspective

(v. 24a)

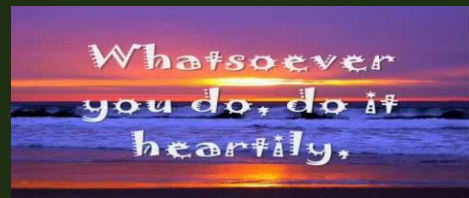
- a. Focus Future Compensation
- b. Focus on Favorable Commendation
- c. Focus on a Fantastic Coronation

III. Hope From A Highest Purpose/Person

(v. 24b) –

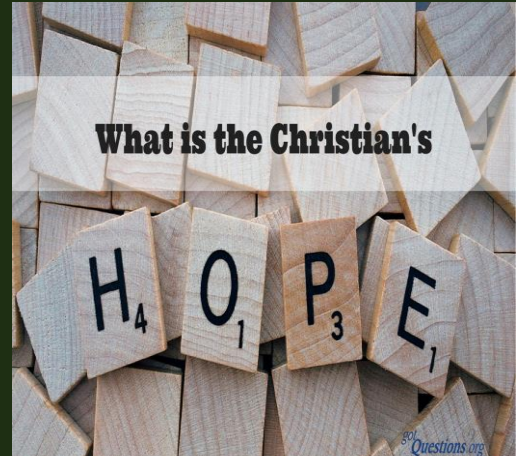
- a. Gravity of the (Lord)
- b. Gladness from of Gospel of Christ
- c. Gratitude From Grace of Christ

Whatever
you do, do it
heartily.



8. What Is The Hope Of Heaven For The Believer?

- The Hope of A New Body. (1 Cor.15:50-54; 2 Cor.4:16-18; 2 Peter 1:13-15)
- The Hope of Eternal Life (John 3:16; 1 Thess. 4; 1 John 5:11 – 13)
- The Hope of Seeing Loved Ones (1 Thess. 4:13 – 14; Hebrews 12:1; Rev. 7:9)
- The Hope of Seeing Jesus (John 14:1 – 3; 1 Pet 1:8)


A chalkboard with a wooden frame. The word 'QUESTIONS' is written in large, bold, white chalk letters. Below it, a large, stylized white question mark is drawn. A small piece of white chalk lies on the bottom edge of the chalkboard.

QUESTIONS



*Father, thank You for the many ways you have called
us Home.*

*Thank you for giving us Bart's story of your work in his
life so we can better see how you are working in our
own lives.*

*Help us to receive you as Father, experience forgiveness
and redemption, and long to be at Home with you.*

*Thank you for all these stories of change that we heard
– and for all the stories you're writing even now. In
Christ, we pray. Amen.*