

# Heaven is for Real

## by Todd Burpo

### About the Book

*Heaven Is for Real* is the true story of the four-year old son of a small town Nebraska pastor who during emergency surgery slips from consciousness and enters heaven. He survives and begins talking about being able to look down and see the doctor operating and his dad praying in the waiting room. The family didn't know what to believe but soon the evidence was clear.

Colton said he met his miscarried sister, whom no one had told him about, and his great grandfather who died 30 years before Colton was born, then shared impossible-to-know details about each. He describes the horse that only Jesus could ride, about how "reaaally big" God and his chair are, and how the Holy Spirit "shoots down power" from heaven to help us.

Told by the father, but often in Colton's own words, the disarmingly simple message is heaven is a real place, Jesus really loves children, and be ready, there is a coming last battle.

### Praise for the Book

"A beautifully written glimpse into heaven that will encourage those who doubt and thrill those who believe."

—Ron Hall, coauthor of *Same Kind of Different As Me*

"You will be moved by the honest, simple, childlike accounts of a little boy who has been to heave. It's compelling and convincing. It's a book you should read. If you're ready to go to heaven, this book will inspire you. If you're not ready for heaven, allow a little child to lead you. Like Colton says, *Heaven Is for Real*."

—Don Piper Speaker and Author, *90 Minutes in Heaven*

*Courtesy of Thomas Nelson*

## About the Author

Todd Burpo is the pastor of Crossroads Wesleyan Church in Imperial, Nebraska (Population: 1,762) where his sermons are broadcast locally every Sunday via the local radio station. In emergencies Todd can be found working shoulder-to-shoulder with the Imperial Volunteer Fire Department as a fire fighter. He is also the chaplain for the Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighter's Association. In addition, Todd works with an overhead door company. Todd graduated from Oklahoma Wesleyan University in 1991 *summa cum laude* with a BA in Theology. He was ordained in 1994.

Todd and his wife Sonja, who is a children's minister, busy pastor's wife, mom, and office worker at a local realtor, are the parents of Colton, now an active 12-year old, Cassie, his older sister, and Colby, his younger brother.

## Discussion Questions

### Religion & Spirituality Discussion Questions

1. For the person who chose this book: What made you want to read it? What made you suggest it to the group for discussion? Did it live up to your expectations? Why or why not?
2. How does the author portray religion and spirituality in this book? Can you relate to the characters and their motivations? Has the author adequately presented and supported his or her premise? In what ways?
3. Has reading this book made you think about religion or spirituality in your own life in a new or different way? How so? Do you think the author has painted a realistic picture of the presence of spirituality in everyday life?
4. How much did you know about the author and his or her spirituality before you started reading the book? Were you familiar with the author's platform, and did this influence your decision to choose the work? Did the book live up to your expectations of the author? Did it exceed your expectations? Why or why not?
5. Have group members reached a common consensus about the spiritual value of this work? If opinions differ, what are the major points of contention?
6. Compare this book to others your group has read. Is it similar to any of them? Did you like it more or less than other books you've read? What do you think will be your lasting impression of the book?
7. Compare this book to others your group has read. Is it similar to any of them? Did you like it more or less than other books you've read? What do you think will be your lasting impression of the book?
8. What did you like or dislike about the book that hasn't been discussed already? Were you glad you read this book? Would you recommend it to a friend? Do you want to read more works by this author?

*Courtesy Reading Group Guides*