



## **Week of October 29 – IS HELL FOR REAL?**

### **Overview:**

*What happens after you die? Is hell real? What does heaven look like? Does it even matter? The nature of heaven, hell, and everything in between have been the subject of intense debate within the church for millennia. In this series, we will discuss what the Bible says, how culture has led us so far from the truth, and how a correct understanding of eternity can give us not only hope for the future, but purpose for our lives in the here and now.*

### **Group Objectives:**

***Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purpose of community groups***

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- Have each person consider how an understanding of God's eternal judgment shapes how we view those around us now.

### **DNA statement(s) tie-in:**

- *We are empowered by the Holy Spirit*—The Holy Spirit within us enables us to live life beyond belief—a life filled with joy, purpose, and power. We live in a supernatural reality that includes yet transcends the physical universe.
- *We are on mission to reach one more*—Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join him in his great mission to reach one more—one more coworker, neighbor, family member, and friend.

### **Conversation Starters:**

- *What are some common depictions of hell in popular culture, i.e., movies, cartoons, books, music, etc.?*

### **Listening to God**

- Where did you see God at work last week? How were you able to join him?

### **Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion**

*Based on these biblical passages, hell is real and eternal judgment is coming for everyone. Jesus spoke frequently of hell, making no apologies for the reality of God's justice. However, his language is often figurative, and we are never given a single, definitive text explaining how hell works or what it will look like. Taking in all of scripture, we can construct a general idea; however, it is important to recognize what we **know** versus what is left to our interpretation. God's word is perfect and authoritative; yet our understanding of it can always improve.*

*There are several references listed below. If, for time considerations, you need to focus on only a few, please make the complete list available to your group so they can study the passages on their own.*

- **Read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; Isaiah 66:20-24; Revelation 20:7-15**
  - How is judgment described in each of these passages? For whom is it intended? What, if any references to time to you find?
  - What do you learn about God's character in these passages?
- **Read Luke 3:15-17; Matthew 10:23-33**
  - Do these passages alter or enhance your understanding of God's judgment?
  - Based on all we have read, what do we know about hell? What questions are left unanswered? What does all of this teach you about God?
- **Read Romans 10:6-17, 2 Timothy 1:6-12**
  - According to Paul, what is required to be saved from eternal judgment? What action does Paul believe this should lead us to?
  - What spirit did God give us at salvation? How does this change how we view hell, eternal judgment, and our ability to share Christ with others?

### **Leaning into Obedience:**

*For followers of Jesus, the reality of hell and judgment should lead not to fear, but action. Eternity's truth encourages us to share Christ with those around us, not out of self-righteousness, but out of love.*

- In your own daily life, what are some practical, loving ways to share Christ with others?
- What are some dangers or pitfalls to guard against, especially when speaking with non-believers about hell and eternal judgment?
- How do you sense God calling you to respond to this lesson?
  - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?
- How can the group encourage you this week as you respond?

### **Prayer Prompts:**

- Invite members of the group to share personal prayer requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following questions.  
*Who is someone you are uniquely situated to share Jesus with?*
- Option: open a time of prayer and invite your group members to simply say the first name (they can make up a nickname if they are concerned about privacy) of someone with whom they want to share the truth and love of Jesus.

### **Going Deeper:**

- If you would like to continue your study, here are a few additional passages: Genesis 3:17-24, Isaiah 33:13-16, Matthew 5:21-24, Matthew 8:5-13, Matthew 25:41-46, Mark 9:42-50, Revelation 14:10, Revelation 21:5-8
- See also the *Bible Project* podcast on Heaven/Hell:  
<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/series/heaven-hell/>