

CLARITY

CLARIFYING QUESTIONS ABOUT FAITH



WEEK 5: WHAT ABOUT HELL?

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

OPENING QUESTIONS

(Choose the one(s) that will best get your group talking on this topic)

- What picture of Hell did you grow up with as a child and where did it come from?
- Share a “Peak and a Pit” from the last week. What was a high point and low point for you in the last week?

SERMON REFLECTIONS—Sermon from Sunday, October 1, 2017

(Audio and video available at purposechurch.com—Suggestion: bring copies of the sermon outline to look at when you discuss)

- What was most helpful to you?
- What challenged you?
- What encouraged you?

C.S. Lewis said:

The doctrine of hell is one of the chief grounds on which Christianity is attacked as barbarous and the goodness of God impugned.

- How have you found this to be true or untrue in your experience?
- How has the doctrine of hell been a stumbling block to you or someone in your oikos?

HERE ARE FOUR COMMON OBJECTIONS TO WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT HELL:

- Read through the four objections together (without the verses).
- Then go around and share which of these is the biggest struggle for you or those in your oikos.
- Then take time to read the scriptures listed (and add to them) for the ones that your group most struggle with:

1. How can God send children to hell?

Matthew 18:3, Matthew 19:14, 2 Samuel 12:23

2. Why doesn't God just force everyone to go to heaven?

Joshua 24:14-15, Luke 9:23-24

3. Why doesn't God give people a second chance (purgatory)?

2 Peter 3:8-9, Hebrews 2:1-3

4. What about people who have never heard about Jesus?

Romans 1:18-20, Jeremiah 29:13, Acts 10:30-35

- What is another objection about hell that you struggle with yourself or hear a lot from others? What did you learn from the sermon or this study that can help to answer this objection?

DIGGING INTO DISCUSSION

Read Mark 9:47-48 and Matthew 22:13

- One of these verses describes hell with fire and the other with darkness. How do these contradict and how can it help us to understand that the descriptions of hell are not literal but rather word pictures of the indescribable nature of hell?

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:9

- Hell is best understood by what is not there. What do we learn about this from this verse?

Author Tim Keller said:

Even in this life we can see the kind of soul disintegration that self-centeredness creates. We know how selfishness and self-absorption leads to bitterness, envy, anxiety, paranoid thoughts, and the mental denials and distortions that accompany them. Now ask the question: "What if when we die we don't end, but spiritually our life extends into eternity?" Hell, then is the trajectory of a soul, living a self-absorbed, self-centered life, going on and on forever.

Read Luke 9:24-25

- What do you learn from this quote and these verses about the connection between choosing a self-centered life and hell?

Read Genesis 18:25 Ephesians 2:8-9

- What stands out to you in what these verses teach us about judgement, hell, salvation and our trust in God?

LIVE IT OUT

Read Ezekiel 33:11, 2 Peter 3:9, Romans 1:16, 1 Peter 3:15

- What stands out to you about God's heart and what our response should be to the reality of hell?
- Who is someone in your oikos that you feel led to share something from this discussion?

See the Suggested Resources found at purposechurch.com/clarity

Here are some chapters from these resources that focus on this week's topic

The Case For Faith: Objection #6--A Loving God Would Never Torture People in Hell
77 FAQ's About God and The Bible
The Reason for God-Chapter 5--How Can a Loving God Send People to Hell?
Erasing Hell: What God Said about Eternity, by Francis Chan