



NEW
HOPE
WINDWARD

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU DIE

4. THE HORRORS OF HELL

ICEBREAKER

If this is a new group or there are new people, please take a moment to **introduce yourselves.**



To start off your small group, briefly share your response to the following question:

Do you like scary movies?

Share with your group.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Let's get a big picture of what we'll be learning today...

Hell is one of those topics we'd just rather not deal with. Like watching a scary movie, we cover our eyes or look away when we come to those passages in the Bible. But it is something we have to consider, especially when we think about what happens after we die. Who goes to hell? What is it for? How do we avoid it? Some may ask, "Why are we even talking about this topic?"

Understanding there is a hell is important because if we never accept the reality that hell is a real place, we may never appreciate how good our God truly is and the good news of the gospel. Most of all, we are talking about this because what we believe about eternity will determine how we live our lives today.



TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Tip: SILENCE CELL PHONES. As a courtesy to those who are sharing in your group, please try to stay off your phones unless for emergencies. It is okay with the exception of the use of your smartphone device for online meeting (Zoom).

Tip: IN PERSON GATHERING. Per State current requirements, please observe the following if your group decides to meet in person: No more than 5-10 people at this time. This may change based on what Tier we are currently at in the State of Hawaii; wear a mask; and maintain 6 feet social distance.

ONLINE Tip: ZOOM &/OR IN PERSON. If you're meeting together on Zoom, familiarize yourself with the Zoom features on your electronic device. It is helpful for everyone to know where the mute button is located. Ask the attendees to self-mute to avoid environmental noise when someone else is talking & sharing. Doing this will help with the flow of your SG discussion time. If your group decides to meet in person, please practice safe social distancing by following the guidelines of being 6 feet apart and wearing a mask.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1.) It's important to understand that hell serves a purpose. We'll look at three reasons that hell exists in this lesson. But first, you have to know that hell is the last resort. God is dealing with His people throughout time in different ways. He doesn't want anyone to die or suffer. Instead, He wants us all to repent, turn away from sin and avoid hell. Peter describes it in his writing:

The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.
2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

We have a loving God who does not want any of His children to perish. But God is also holy and just. God can not be holy without being just.

So, what is hell for? There are three things that hell deals with.

First, hell exists for God to righteously deal with Satan.

Hell was intended to punish Satan, his angels, and the other wicked spirits who followed him. They are the reason that hell exists because they rebelled during the beginning of the world. The devil is the embodiment of all addiction, shame, pain, and everything evil. He is the destroyer, the deceiver, the dragon, the prince of darkness and he hates you, your children, your family, and most of all he hates God.

Satan and his demons are the enemy of Jesus' followers and God has destined them to eternal punishment. How does it make you feel knowing that God will ultimately take care of your enemy? If Satan knows he is destined for hell, that makes him dangerous since he doesn't care anymore what happens to him. What types of things do you think he and his demons are doing in the world to drag people to hell with him? (Examples: satan puts temptations in front of us, encourages us to be selfish, angry, etc.)?

2.) Next, **hell exists for God to deal righteously with unbelievers.** Read the following passage:

...He will come with His mighty angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from His glorious power. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 (NLT)

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 (NLT)

It is impossible for God to be holy without Him being just. It may not seem fair, but it's important to understand that each person actually chooses where they want to spend eternity. It's not that they simply don't know about God, it's that after hearing the Gospel they refuse to obey it. People today want to re-make God in their own image to justify their lifestyles. Read the scripture that follows:

They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator Himself, who is worthy of eternal praise!

Romans 1:25 (NLT)

A few things are true about hell. First, it is punishment. There is a reason that people will suffer in hell, and that's because of the suffering they caused on earth. Second, it is eternal. As hard as an eternal heaven may be to think of, so is hell unbearable. Third, the true horror of hell is separation from God. This rivals the pain they may endure.

How we view eternity affects how we live today. Knowing that hell is real, and eternal torment, how might you live differently tomorrow?

3.) Finally, hell exists for God to finally deal with death and sin. Take a look at this passage:

Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death.
Revelation 20:14 (NLT)

It's interesting that before a new heaven and new earth can exist, sin and death must be dealt with once and for all. On the cross, Jesus took the curse of sin. And at the end of time, He will deal with it forever.

How do you think life will be different in heaven since there will be no sin?

4.) What people think about heaven and hell is fascinating. When asked, 74% of Americans say they believed in heaven, but only 25% say they believe in hell. And less than 1% think they are actually going to hell.

There is a story in the Bible about the cold, hard facts of hell. The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus tell the story of a beggar who was righteous and died and went to heaven. But the rich man who refused to help died and went to hell. Take a look at this part of the story:

“...The rich man also died and was buried, and he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side. The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’”
Luke 16:22-24 (NLT)

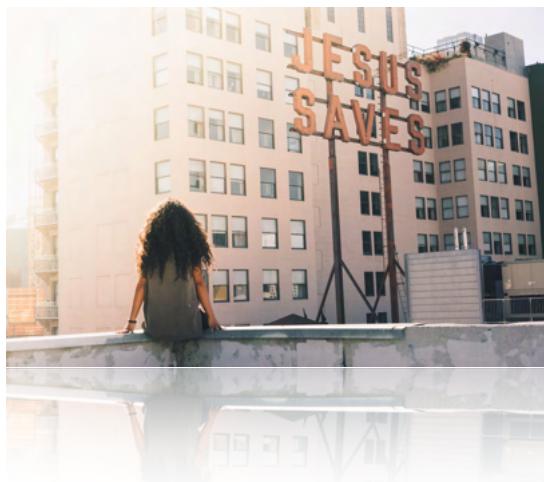
From this story we learn that hell is final, hell is for those who sin, and hell is a horrible place to end up for eternity! Some may have jokingly made remarks that hell is a party place. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Hell is a place of isolation, utter darkness, no light, unbearable suffering and no hope. If we all knew the horrors of hell, then none would choose it.

There's a saying, "Hell on earth." Some of us have experienced that, either as consequences of bad decisions we made or just circumstances beyond our control. Nevertheless, for those of us who believe, this world is the closest we will ever get to hell. How might that shape how you see your unsaved family, friends and neighbors?

Finally, take some time to discuss right now if all of you will be continuing to meet in your small group. Or, discuss with your group if you plan to have a fun get together as you complete this small group study.

Note: No pressure at all to attend.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?



This is a hard topic, of course. But an important one as well. Knowing how painful hell is, isn't it incredible what Jesus was willing to suffer to keep us from going there? Isn't God amazing for providing us with the Good News of the Gospel, so we don't have to fear death or hell?

- **Let's thank Him for what He did on the cross.**
- **Let's thank Him for dealing with our sins.**
- **Let's thank Him for creating heaven!**

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Take a few minutes to close your time together with prayer and to pray for each other's prayer requests. Below is a sample prayer to read if you choose to. You can also choose to write down each other's prayer requests to remember throughout the week.



Sample Prayer:

God, thank You for taking away our sins and closing the mouth of death. We, who are sure that we will see You and be with You forever are so glad that we won't suffer a minute in hell. Keep our hearts tender to those who aren't sure, and give us boldness to help them see the truth. Even though this topic may be a bit challenging to take in, thank You for bringing this to our attention because the days are short and there is urgency involved. We have family, friends, co-workers, and people we meet who may not know about You. Help us to reach out to them with Your love and kindness. Lord, let Your loving kindness draw the lost back to You so that they won't have to suffer in hell. Have mercy! In Jesus' name we pray, amen!

Group Prayer Requests:

Name	Request
_____	_____
_____	_____

DAILY DEVOTIONS: DAY 1

SCRIPTURE...

"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it."

Matthew 7:13-14 (NLT)

OBSERVATION...

APPLICATION...

PRAYER...

DAILY DEVOTIONS: DAY 2

SCRIPTURE...

I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:12, 15 (NLT)

OBSERVATION...

APPLICATION...

PRAYER...

DAILY DEVOTIONS: DAY 3

SCRIPTURE...

"When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes."

Matthew 24:37-39 (NLT)

OBSERVATION...

APPLICATION...

DAILY DEVOTIONS: DAY 4

SCRIPTURE...

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:10 (NIV)

OBSERVATION...

APPLICATION...

PRAYER...

SCRIPTURE...

"When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Lord, open the door for us!' But He will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from... Get away from Me, all you who do evil.' There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you will be thrown out."

Luke 13:25, 27-28 (NLT)

OBSERVATION...

APPLICATION...

PRAYER...
