

HEAVEN

Message Title: *What about Hell?*

Message Date: May 24, 2026

CONNECT

If new people have joined your group, take time to introduce yourselves to each other.

Some questions to get the conversation rolling:

1. What was missing growing up?
2. When did you see the light of Christ in someone recently?

PRAY TOGETHER

Allow a moment for silence. This is often the most meaningful moment.

Then spend a few minutes asking God to meet each of you personally, right where you are. Pray that He would show you new and beautiful things and lead you further along the path of life. Allow time for everyone to contribute as God leads.

STUDY AND DISCUSSION

- Resist the urge to get through all the questions. It's OK if you don't. That's not the point. Let the Holy Spirit guide your reflection and discussion. Spend time reading and really thinking about what the Bible is saying.
- If your group has eight or more people, it might be helpful to break into circles of four or five for greater participation and deeper discussion. When you come back together, invite each group to share a few takeaways from their conversation.

Hell is simply one's freely chosen identity apart from God... and yet the gospel is God's relentless pursuit to rescue us from that very end.

Tim Keller

Matthew 25:31-46 (ESV)

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did

we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

1. What do you think it means that *all the nations* are gathered before Him?
2. Why do you think Jesus uses the image of a shepherd separating sheep and goats?
3. What does this passage reveal about who Jesus is?
4. Why do you think Jesus says, *I was hungry... I was thirsty...* and identifies Himself with those in need?
5. What does it mean to care for *one of the least of these* (verse 40, 45)?
6. What thoughts or questions come to mind when you picture this scene?
7. If salvation is a gift of grace and not based on works (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7), how do you make sense of what Jesus is teaching in Matthew 25:31-46?
8. What’s the difference, in your experience, between conviction and condemnation? How can you tell which one you’re hearing?
9. If someone asked you, *How can Jesus do this? I thought He was full of love and grace?* How would you reply?

10. What new insights do these passages give you into what Jesus is teaching in Matthew 25:31–46?
 - a. Isaiah 58:6-10
 - b. Ezekiel 34:17-22
 - c. Matthew 7:21-23
 - d. James 2:14-17
 - e. 1 John 3:16-18

11. What do these passages teach you about the Good News of Jesus?
 - a. Isaiah 53:4-6
 - b. Romans 8:1-2
 - c. Galatians 3:13
 - d. Hebrews 9:27-28
 - e. 1 Peter 2:24-25

12. How are you feeling after this week’s study and discussion?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

After this week’s lesson, what’s one thought, question or takeaway you’re sitting with right now? Pause and ask God what He wants to say to you. Allow time for Him to speak, being sensitive to thoughts that come to mind. Growing often comes by simply making yourself available to God.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Memorizing Scripture enables us to carry within us the life-giving, life-shaping words of God at all times in all places. Here’s a verse to memorize based on this week’s teaching:

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Matthew 25:46 (NIV)

PRAY

Spend time renewing your desire for Jesus to work in your heart, and pray for people you know to feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit and be open to receiving God’s love and mercy. For it is God’s kindness that leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4).