

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides

May 1st

Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)

1. The best thing I have ever done on social media is...Or, one thing I miss about phones with dials and cords is?

Bible Study Questions

1. What do you imagine hell to be like? What were you taught about hell growing up?
2. What emotions does it trigger in you when you think about hell? Are you comfortable with the doctrine of hell or struggle with it?
3. Read what Jesus had to say about hell. Matthew 5:22, 5:29-30, 8:11-12, 10:28, 11:23, 18:9, 23:33, 13:41, 22:13, 25:41. Think about these verses a moment.
 - Why do you think that Jesus spent so much time talking about hell? What should we learn from that?
4. Many people object to Christianity because they don't understand how a good God could send people to hell. Have you ever encountered that objection? How have you responded?
5. Read Isaiah 55:6-9. What do these verses teach about the character of God and his approach to hell? How have you seen God show you mercy in your own life?
6. Pastor Michael said that the existence of hell should prompt us to want to prevent as many people as possible from going there. How are you currently doing that? Is there someone in your life that you are currently praying for to come to know Jesus? If so, spend time as a group praying over those names.

May 1st: 5 Minutes After You Die: Hell

Hell is a topic often neglected into today's church. Generally it is dismissed for mockery, rejected as not reflecting a loving God, or used as a reason to reject Christianity.

I. What is hell?

- **The existence of hell is passionately declared by Jesus and his followers:** Any Christian who rejects the existence of hell has to ignore large parts of Scripture. Jesus passionately warned people about hell and we see these same warnings shared by his followers. They clearly believed in its existence.
- **A place of discarded uselessness:** 2 Thessalonians 1:8 describes hell as eternal destruction. The word destruction doesn't mean to "cease to exist," but to lose its essence or purpose. Jesus used the image of "Gehenna" as a description of hell, which was where trash was thrown away. Hell is the place in which you have missed your God given purpose, the very things that make you human, and spend eternity in that crushing regret.
- **A place cut off from the beauty of God:** 2 Thessalonians 1:8 also describes hell as being cut off from God's presence. If God is the source of all blessing, then it means that one is cut off from God's blessings, all that is loving and beautiful.

II. Why would God send people there?

- **Hell is the natural result of our choices:** God does not send people to hell, but gives us free choice. Sin was a choice to embrace evil and the consequences that went with it. The first humans made that choice and we have followed in their footsteps. Jesus offers us salvation, but we have the freedom to reject that gift. We can either a life in which we confront hell on our own or choose to be covered by the grace of Jesus.
- **The right question is, "Why does God save?"** God allowing people to go to hell and be punished for their rebellion is not remarkable. God's desire to show mercy and save us from hell is remarkable. That is why Isaiah writes in Isaiah 55 that God's ways are not our ways.

III. What do we do?

- **Embrace God's mercy:** If someone has not responded to God's mercy, hell should prompt them to do that. The offer of salvation doesn't last forever. We should embrace it as soon as possible.
- **Join God in a rescue mission:** The reality of heaven should inspire us to join God in his rescue mission. We are to be people who "raze hell", seeking to save as many people as possible.