

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of April 28-May 4, 2024
"THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS"

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

If your life was captured in the "expectation vs. reality" meme, what would the two pictures be?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Luke 16:19-31.

1. What details from the text highlight the vast difference between the circumstances of the rich man and Lazarus? What does the rich man's life and circumstances reveal about his values and character? How does this parable challenge your own perspective on material possessions and the pursuit of wealth?
2. Does this story teach that the rich go to hell and the poor go to heaven? What did Jesus mean when he said that it is hard for the rich to go to heaven (cf. Matthew 19:23-26)?
3. What was Abraham's response to the rich man's request for water and his explanation of the division between heaven and Hades? What does this story teach us about the reality of heaven and hell? Do you know of some unbiblical beliefs about heaven and hell? How does belief about the afterlife influence our attitudes and behaviors in the present life?
4. Reflect on the rich man's plea for Lazarus to warn his brothers. How does this underscore the urgency of repentance and the consequences of failing to heed God's warnings during one's lifetime?
5. We often say that "God's Word is sufficient," but do we really live that way? Give some personal examples where you practice this truth in your life.

6. The sermon warns, "Do not assume you're going to heaven." Have you reflected on your own spiritual standing before God? What does 2 Corinthians 13:5-6 admonish us to do?
7. Read James 2:17-19. James asserts that even demons believe in God, but tremble. Does your actions and decisions regarding finances align with your professed faith in God? How does James warn against mere intellectual assent to faith without genuine transformation?

NEXT STEPS

God has done everything necessary for you go to heaven. It is your choice whether to surrender your life to Jesus or not.

- I will seek to know Jesus better through his Word.
- I will let God's Word transform me, especially in my view and use of wealth.
- I will constantly examine whether I am in the faith (2 Cor 13:5).
- I will live daily live for Christ and Christ alone.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for wisdom and discernment to understand the difference between the path that leads to life and the path that leads away from God.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

April 29 Luke 16:19-31
April 30 James 5:1-6
May 1 Revelation 20:11-15
May 2 Isaiah 40:1-8
May 3 1 Timothy 6:6-10
May 4 Psalms 5:1-12
May 5 Psalms 148:1-6