

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHY DO PEOPLE GO TO HELL?
The Gospel of John — Week 11

ICEBREAKER: What are you thankful for today?

OVERVIEW: The doctrine of hell is one of the most hated doctrines in the Bible. How could an all-loving, all-knowing, all-powerful God send people to hell? This question has caused many Christians to ignore the clear teaching of the Bible, or to fall away from the faith altogether. But the Bible is abundantly clear about hell. It is the place of eternal torment inhabited by those who reject God's offer of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. In this discussion we will go deeper in our understanding of why God allows people to go to hell.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Matthew 25:46. How does this verse address 1) universalism, 2) annihilationism, 3) Purgatory, 4) the view that hell only exists in this life?
3. Read John 3:17-21. According to this passage, does God want to send people to hell? (See also 1 Timothy 2:4 and 2 Peter 3:9).
4. According to John 3:17-21, is it hard for a person to escape hell and receive eternal life? Explain.
5. According to John 3:17-21, who goes to hell, sinners or unbelievers? Explain.
6. Read Matthew 12:31-32. What is the unforgivable sin?
7. According to John 3:17-21, what has God done to rescue us from hell?
8. Read John 3:19-21. According to these verses, why do people go to hell?
9. How should the reality of hell affect the way we live?

The Last Word: "There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'Alright, then, have it your way.'" C. S. Lewis