

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## A FRIGHTENING REMINDER OF HELL

Revelation 14

Revelation — Week 19

**ICEBREAKER:** How has your birth order affected you?

**OVERVIEW:** Hell is an unpopular subject. The traditional doctrine of hell has been under attack for a long time. In the nineteenth century the Christian author J. C. Ryle wrote, “I believe the time has come when it is a positive duty to speak plainly about the reality and eternity of hell. A flood of false doctrine has lately broken in upon us. People are beginning to tell us that God is too merciful to punish souls forever, that there is a love of God lower even than hell, and that all mankind, however wicked and ungodly some of them may be, will sooner or later be saved. We are invited to leave the old paths of apostolic Christianity. We are told that the views of our fathers about hell, the devil, and punishment are obsolete and old-fashioned. We are to embrace what is called a kinder version of theology, treating hell as a pagan fable or a scary story to frighten children and fools.” However unpopular and uncomfortable the doctrine of hell may be, it is inescapable. Hell is a reality for those who die in their sins. In this discussion we will go deeper with the truth about 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. Is it important for the church to teach about hell? Explain.
3. Why shouldn’t Christians fear hell?
4. Why should unbelievers fear hell?

5. Read the following passages and answer the questions.
  - a. Read Matthew 13:40-42. What does this passage teach about hell?
  - b. Read Matthew 18:8. What does this verse teach about hell?
  - c. Read 2 Peter 3:9. What does this verse teach about hell?
6. Refer to Sunday’s sermon and answer the following questions.
  - a. How is hell described in Revelation 14:9-13?
  - b. How is heaven described in Revelation 14:13?

**The Last Word:** “If the old doctrine about hell is overthrown, then the whole system of Christianity is unsettled, unscrewed, unpinned, and thrown into disorder.” J. C. Ryle





