



Homesick

John 14:32; 2 Corinthians 5:8



study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

INTRODUCTION

Most of us don't particularly like talking about hell. That's probably a good thing. Yet Jesus talked of it, so we dare not ignore what he was trying to tell us.

The main significance of hell in Jesus' teaching was not to scare people, but to say, "your Heavenly Father is just and good." He is not a whimsical god like those in the pagan religions of Jesus' day, nor of ours. He stands for justice and he will not force his way into anyone's life or eternity. He's a relational God who always connects with us in love. He sent his Son so that we could not only avoid being at odds with him, but so we could actually be his friends (John 15:15)!

When you see the judgment in eternity from that perspective, it's actually encouraging in a way. It means that we can trust him, and he's in control. It also means that the homesickness we have for a better world is meant to remind us every day that such a place actually exists!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Over the course of this "final destination" series, are there things about eternity that you discovered for the first time or things you hadn't remembered in a while? What?
- In the message Sunday, Dwain quoted Dorothy Sayers: *"There seems to be a kind of conspiracy to forget, or to conceal, where the doctrine of hell comes from. The doctrine of hell is not 'mediaeval priestcraft' for frightening people into giving money to the church: it is Christ's deliberate judgment on sin....We cannot repudiate Hell without altogether repudiating Christ."*
 - What do you think she's saying? Do you agree or disagree with her? Does her thought help you understand why God tells us about hell in the Bible?
- Read together Luke 20:45-47.** What is Jesus saying about what God dislikes most?
- Read together Romans 2:5-8.** What is your reaction to the idea of God having "wrath" against people who remain in sin? How does this inform your picture of God?
- Read together John 14:23.** What does this promise by Jesus tell you about his grace? How does it effect how you view your life? How you look at eternity?
- Read together 2 Corinthians 5:8.** Can you agree with Paul that this is true for you? What does this truth do for your heart and soul as you look toward eternity?

MOVING FORWARD

Homesickness, especially when it comes to our home in the heavenly new world of eternity, can be a good thing. It's a reminder that we have a home! And homesickness for our home with Jesus is a daily help as we remember our final destination isn't here – Like the promise of Jesus' friendship, God's promise of an eternity with him changes how we look at our problems, challenges, decisions, and even the value of our joys here and now. *It's not about me; It's not about now.*

Pray for each other and for your church family, that we would be people who know not only *about* our final destination, but that knowing where we are headed and who's we are, will inspire us with the *meaning of our lives* being here and now.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. John 14:23 (NIV)