



Group Life Leader's Discussion Guide

Date: 3/23/2025

Sermon Title: Wrestling with Doubt Week 3 – Are all non-Christians going to hell?

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Gathering:

As you gather with one another be sure to greet each other and check-in. Ask and inquire from group members how their week has gone? Share that they will close with prayer requests at the end of group today.

OPENING PRAYER (Group leader or someone prays this prayer to open or create a similar prayer.)

Gracious and loving God, we come before You with open hearts and minds, seeking Your wisdom and truth. As we wrestle with difficult questions, may Your Spirit guide our conversation. Help us to listen with grace, to speak with love, and to seek a deeper understanding of Your justice and mercy. May our time together draw us closer to You and to one another. Amen.

Opening Question:

1. Have you ever had a friend of another faith tradition? How has this hindered or strengthened your own faith?

Digging into the scripture text:

2. Read the text for this week's discussion Matthew 25:31-36. What are your initial insights from this text?
3. What do you notice about how Jesus describes the final judgment in this passage?
4. Who are the "sheep" and the "goats," and what distinguishes them from one another?
5. What role do acts of mercy and compassion play in Jesus' description of the judgment?
6. How does this passage challenge common assumptions about who is "in" or "out" of God's kingdom?
7. Does Jesus explicitly connect salvation to a person's religious identity in this passage? Why or why not? How does our understanding of God's grace shape our view of salvation?
8. How do we balance evangelism with respect for other faiths?

Sermon Questions:

9. Dr. Oliphint shares a story about a Buddhist family that his family were friends with growing up and he struggled with their destiny of heaven or hell? How does your personal experience with people of different faiths shape your view on who might be 'saved' or go to heaven?
10. How does the sermon's discussion of Sheol, Hades, and Gehenna affect your understanding of the concept of hell in the Bible? How do you reconcile the idea of a loving God with the concept of eternal separation or hell?
11. The sermon shares the parable in Matthew that Jesus talks about the last judgement. What

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12. The sermon mentions the three views of salvation, see question 17 below. Discuss the three Christian viewpoints on salvation (exclusivism, universalism, inclusivism). Which one aligns most closely with your current understanding? Why?
13. Reflect on the quote from John Wesley from the sermon about God regarding "the goodness of the heart rather than the clearness of the head." How might this impact the way we view and treat people of different faiths?
14. Pastor Oliphint quotes C.S. Lewis saying, "The doors to hell are locked from the inside." What do you think this means? Do you agree or disagree?
15. What is our role in salvation? Dr. Oliphint says we don't judge, convict and decide who goes to hell. Our role is to love. Billy Graham said, "It's the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge, and our job to love." How can we better focus on loving others instead of judging them?
16. Knowing that it is Jesus that sit in the judgment seat and not us; what is hopeful for you in loving others especially those that don't know Jesus?

Insights from *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith* chapter 3:

17. Rev. Hamilton explores different views on salvation. Specifically, what he calls Christian Exclusivism, Christian Universalism, and Christian Inclusivism. How do these views shape your understanding?
18. Do you have a greater or different view of salvation after exploring chapter 3?
19. What does it mean to trust in God's justice and mercy?
20. And the end of chapter 3 Rev. Hamilton addresses friending those of other faith traditions? How do we balance evangelism with respect for other faiths?

Applying it:

21. Reflect on ways you might have judged others based on their faith (or lack thereof). How can we be more loving to others that have a different view of faith than ours?
22. In our study of Matthew 25:31-46 (the parable of the sheep and goats) what is one concrete way you can serve "the least of these" in your community. List examples as a group.

CLOSING PRAYER (at the end of discussion have folks share any prayer requests or praises and have someone close in prayer, you can use this prayer if you desire.)

Loving God, You are both just and merciful, full of truth and grace. Thank You for meeting us in our questions and for reminding us that You are always bigger than our doubts. As we go from this place, help us to embody the love and compassion You call us to. Teach us to trust in Your justice while also walking in humility. May we reflect Your love to all people, knowing that You alone are the righteous judge. Amen.

WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)

1. This week, make a conscious effort to show Christ-like love to someone with different beliefs than your own.
2. Practice sharing your faith through actions of love and service, rather than arguments or judgment.
3. Want to dig and learn more watch this episode on [Are all non-Christians going to hell in the More than Sunday Podcast](#).