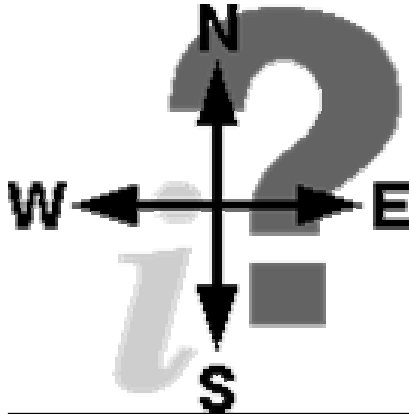


LIFE Community Sermon Notes



How do I  
know God exists?

**Matthew 25:31-46**

31"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and

clothe you? 39When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

41"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44"Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

45"Then he will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

46"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

**Matthew 22:11-13**

11"Then the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 12'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here

without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. 13"Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

**Revelations 20:11-15**

11Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as

recorded in the books. 13The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. 14Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

**2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**

8He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

9They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.

## LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, July 15

**Big Idea:** Why would a Good God send people to Hell?

**Key Verse:** *Matthew 25:46:*

*Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.*

**Opening Question:** What is the most significant thing that has happened to you in the past week?

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions.  
Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders notes.

Read the passages.

Bryan broke down our tough question this week into three basic questions:

1. What do we know, and not know, about Hell?
2. Why is Hell necessary?
3. How can I be sure I am not going there?

### Discussion Questions

1. **How do people, from the past or present, describe Hell?**
2. **From the passages on the previous page, how would you describe Hell?**
3. **What is the difference in the descriptions?**
4. "Of all the doctrines of Christianity, hell is probably the most difficult to defend, the most burdensome to believe, and the first to be abandoned."-Peter Kreeft. Discuss why this is so?
5. Bryan listed three reasons for the necessity of Hell: human dignity, justice and love. What is your response to these reasons? Do you find other reasons for the necessity of Hell?
6. **"Those who do not wish to love God must be allowed not to love Him. Those who do not want to be with God must be allowed to be separated from Him." -Peter Kreeft. If this is taken as true, then it is not God who sends people to Hell against their will, but rather He allows people to choose Hell. Discuss this in your group.**
7. **The bible affirms that the only way to be sure that you are not going to Hell is to turn to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith. Have you done that? What is stopping you from doing that?**
8. **Close your time in your group by praying for people who you know need to respond to the gospel of God.**

### *Leader's Notes*

1. *This is a difficult topic for many people to discuss. I would suggest that you avoid intellectual discussions about the reality of Hell or theoretical discussions about its state or location. Try to focus the discussion more personally and biblically. Theoretical discussions are sometimes a pretense to avoiding the issue altogether.*
2. *For those groups which have all believers in I would really focus on question 8 which turns the groups focus outwards in outreach. Challenge people in the group, that if they believe in the reality of Hell, to go and share the escape route, that is Jesus Christ, with someone they know needs to hear it as if their lives depended on it.*

### **Resources**

- *Paul Little: Know Why you Believe?*
- *Peter Kreeft: Handbook of Christian Apologetics*