



Group Discussion Questions

FAQ Series - Is Hell Real? November 2 & November 5, 2017

Group Discussion: In your home was punishment used for 1) The parents release of anger. 2) A way to teach you the punishment fits the crime, or teach you justice. 3) To behaviorally modify your choices?

Read aloud: Luke 16:14-31

Notice the contextual setting in vs 14, "the Pharisees scoffing." Scoffing is like mocking, what kinds of things did the Pharisee's mock about Jesus? Think about things like His education, social standing, economic status and lineage.

In vs. 19-21 we're given some background on the rich man and Lazarus, and when it says rich it means really rich. The chasm between the Biblical rich man and Lazarus would have been enormously wide in what ways? How do the lifestyles of the rich and famous differ from ours, and I mean really rich, think of people like Bill Gates, Oprah, Mark Zuckerberg, Mark Cuban?

Vs. 22 Lazarus is carried away by angels and the rich man is buried. Why do you think Jesus/Luke used these contrasts when telling/writing their parable? As the first listeners were listening to the story how would these details have impacted the picture of the scene in their minds?

In vs. 24 & 27 the rich man tells Abraham to "send" Lazarus on some errands for him. "Send" implies Lazarus is just a low-level servant. Abraham responds by pointing out that the eternal state they are in is fixed for all time by a chasm and that the rich man's brothers have the same opportunities to listen and learn from scripture as the rich man had. Why do you think Jesus makes this parable so absolute, or totally resolved? What does this say about how we should, listen, learn and apply the Bible to our lives? How do we procrastinate about obeying or applying the Bible to our lives?

What's an area where you have felt God trying to teach you and you've been resistant?

Review your oikos cards and talk about the friends and family you need to invite to Christ or GateWay. Is "Christmas at GateWay" a useful event to invite them?

Family Time: Sit down with your children and talk about how sometimes we in America consume everything on ourselves. Vs. 19 is useful as we can talk about what nice clothes we have and how well we eat. Ask them if they would like to go shopping, fill 2 grocery bags and take the food to the Visalia Rescue Mission to donate for Thanksgiving. Then execute the plan!