

## Why God?

**How can a loving God judge  
And send people to hell?**

## TALK IT OVER

### Key Scripture

*“5 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— 6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. 11 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” – 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12 (ESV)*

*“3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” – 1 Timothy 2:3-4 (EV)*

*“8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.” – 2 Peter 3:8-10 (ESV)*

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More of God’s truth all week long at [renewaldenver.tv](http://renewaldenver.tv) and [sjdenver.tv](http://sjdenver.tv)

### Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- How do you decide what is fair and what is not?
- Are you someone who believes in second chances? What about third or fourth or fifth? When or have you ever been pushed to the limit?

### Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12. Why is God’s judgment right?
- In 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12, Paul and Timothy are comforting Christians who are suffering unjustly because of their faith in Jesus. What kind of justice does he promise them? What will happen to those who do not believe in Jesus?

### Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- We send ourselves to hell by rejecting God. Hell is simply the absence of God. (Mark 16:16, John 3:18, James 1:13-15)
- How can a loving God send people to Hell? How would you answer this question based on what you know about God’s nature as revealed in scripture?
- What about people who have never heard of Jesus? Does scripture give any assurance that they can be saved apart from the name of Jesus, or that there will be second chances? How does this impact our sense of missional urgency?
- We often ask – “God, why are you letting all of this evil persist?” How does Peter answer that question in 2 Peter 3:8-10?

### Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- Open the scriptures this week and explore examples of God’s mercy/grace and God’s righteous judgement.
- Who can you pray for that they would come to faith in Jesus?

### Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

### Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

1. What’s a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
2. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
3. How’s your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (*3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection*)
4. Who is one non-believer that you need to reach out to this week?
5. What’s something you’d like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.