

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Summer Series: You Asked For It

Message: Is Hell Real?

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: June 2, 2024



Connect (20min)


*Split into groups of 3-4 to enhance your sharing.

1. June Buggy

- What are 3 things you're thankful for today?
- What are 2 things you're looking forward to in the month of June?
- Do you have a Bible reading or devotions plan for June?
What is your plan and focus? Do you have a set or favorite time and place to meet with God?
How can we encourage one another in the Word and Prayer this month?

Message Discussion (45min)

1. Perspective & Prayer

- "Hell is the backdrop that reveals the profound and unbelievable grace of the cross. It brings to light the enormity of our sin and therefore portrays the undeserved favor of God in full color." "Don't believe something just because you want to, and don't embrace an idea just because you've always believed it. Believe what is biblical. Test all your assumptions against the precious words God gave us in the Bible."*
— Francis Chan, *Erasing Hell: What God Said About Eternity, and the Things We've Made Up*
- Read  [Matthew 6:9-13](#) (The Lord's Prayer) and ask the Lord to guide this discussion. Pray.



2. Sunday Feedback

- How were you encouraged and challenged by the message?
- What surprised you or confused you? What did you learn? What questions do you still have?

3. Thoughts on Hell

- What is our society's general perception of hell? What are some common portrayals of hell in culture?
- Before this message, when's the last time you thought about hell or had a conversation about it?
What do you picture when you think of hell?
What are the ways hell has been referenced or spoken of by yourself or others in your life?
- How do these answers impact your perception of God? Discuss.
- Do you think we talk about hell enough in the church? Why or why not?

4. Jesus on Hell

- Did you know that Jesus talked more about hell than He did about heaven?
Why do you think that is and why does this matter?
- Read the following passages and come up with a description of what you think hell will be like:
 [Matthew 8:11-12, 13:47-50; 25:30-33, 41-46; Luke 8:31, 13:23-30; Mark 9:42-48; Revelation 20:10](#)
- Read  [Luke 16:19-26](#). What do these verses tell you about heaven and hell?

5. Personal Impact

- a. Think about this quote:

***“For a Christian, this life is the closest to hell that they will ever experience.
For a non-Christian this life is the closest to heaven they will ever experience.”***

What does that mean? Have you found it to be true?

- b. How would Christianity be different if there was no hell?
How would your view of God change if there was no hell?
- c. In what way does the doctrine of Hell affect your relationship with your family and friends?
- d. How can the doctrine of hell cause you to live with a greater urgency and willingness to share your faith?
Who in your life needs to know Jesus?
>> Pray for them by name and ask the Lord to give you opportunities to share the hope of Jesus with them.

Prayer (20min)

*Split into groups of 3-4 to enhance your sharing.

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22

*[14] Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone. [15] See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people. [16] Always be joyful. [17] **Never stop praying.** [18] Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. [19] Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. [20] Do not scoff at prophecies, [21] but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. [22] Stay away from every kind of evil.*

2. In response to Sunday's Message and our discussion...

How can we pray for you and the people in your life who need to know Jesus?

Resource

Book: [Erasing Hell: What God Said About Eternity, and the Things We've Made Up](#), by Francis Chan