

JOURNEY

ADVOCATES

PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 7.4: HELL

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 13:23-30, MARK 9:42-48, MATTHEW 22:1-14

SUMMARY:

Is hell real or just a Christian scare tactic? It's undoubtedly one of the most difficult of Christian doctrines to accept. However, Jesus makes it clear that those who believe have eternal life and those that do not stand condemned (John 3:18).

This week we compare the function of hell to that of jail in our society. First, it protects law-abiding citizens from criminals. Second, it punishes wrongdoing. A society that didn't protect its citizens or punish evil could hardly be

considered just or good. Hell accomplishes both, safeguarding the kingdom of God from evil and punishing sinners. Rejecting God is the greatest sin one can commit. Therefore, sinning against an infinite God merits an infinite punishment.

Hell is not an easy doctrine to accept. But, as difficult as it may be to understand, hell must be real. So let this lesson be an even greater motivation to go out and share the gospel.

CORE VERSES

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God

John 3:18

CORE CONCEPTS

Hell is the tragic consequence of human rejection of God's free gift of salvation.

GEHENNA:

A valley outside ancient Jerusalem with a history of wickedness and suffering, used to describe hell

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Talk to me about the most interesting thing you learned from this week's lesson.
- How would you describe the purpose and existence of hell?
- What is your motivation to share the gospel with others?
- How has this unit impacted the way you think about God?
- Describe your next steps based on what you've learned. How can I help?