

Transition:

Jesus has just spoken with His disciples about the Temple's destruction, future calamities, His Coming and the wisdom of watching. He begins by sharing a parable of the Ten Virgins; 5 had the lamps with oil ready for the bridegroom, but 5 did not. Jesus then illustrates and expounds on the Future Judgment of those who were not ready, and also those who "professed" Jesus, but He did not know them.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) Do the best you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever heard of Judgment Day? Does that scare you?
2. Who are "the least of these" and why is Jesus concerned about them?

Fundamental:

Judgment/Hell - This is arguably one of the most controversial topics in Scripture. Even amongst evangelicals, the thought of "only God can judge me" has crept in. The Bible is clear, it is a great and terrible day where the sheep and goats, the righteous and wicked, the saint and sinner, the wheat and chaff all appear and Jesus Himself judges them according to the deeds done in the body; every work proven by fire. Jesus spoke more of Hell than Heaven and He did so with authority. And despite what the world might say or the Church's silence on this subject or lack thereof, He knows Hell is a very real place created for the Devil and his angels, but those not found in the Book of Life will be there. We are to live our life with Eternity in mind, hastening the coming of Jesus. Although it is a terrible day, those found in Christ do not have to be ashamed or afraid because we are going to be with Christ forever.

1. Why do you think Jesus spoke more about Hell than Heaven? (Luke 16:19-31; Matt 13:41-42)
2. What is Hell described as? (Mark 9:43; Matt 25:46; Matt 8:12)
3. Are believers Judged? Why or why not?
4. Does God send people to Hell? (Matt 10:28)

Homework/Challenge:

1. Talk to a someone this week about Hell and Judgment.
2. Please read Matthew 26 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Most "Christians" are afraid of Judgment Day because their conscience is not clean. It is helpful to be sober when discussing this topic and to ask individuals to make a decision today to follow Christ.

Prayer:

In prayer this week, ask God to give you a sober sense of reality - to live with eternity always on your mind.

Extras:

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God by Jonathan Edwards
<https://www.jonathan-edwards.org/Sinners.pdf>