



THE GOD QUESTIONS

Can a loving God really send people to hell?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Go around the table and answer the question, "Do you believe in hell?" Why?
- How do you make sure you can avoid hell? Have you done that? Share your story :

ACTIVITY: God is Just, God is Merciful

You Need: 2 blown up balloons, 1 pin, 1 piece of masking tape, 1 marker

Read: Psalm 9:7-8 Ask what do you think makes a fair judge?

Read: 2 Thessalonians 7:10 We see God's justice and mercy in this passage let me show you:

Take one balloon, say: "this represents us". Take the pin, say: "this represents God's Justice". Romans 3:23 tells us the wages of sin is death. Romans 3:23 tells us all have sinned, so God being a just judge would be true to His character to give us Justice. Poke the balloon with the pin. Take other balloon, say: "but God is not only just, He is loving." John 3:16 tells us "He sent His only son to pay our penalty". Write Jesus on piece of masking tape and place on balloon. Poke balloon (slowly) where tape is placed, it will not pop. Say: God is just and must punish sin, God is loving and sent Jesus to take the punishment. God desires that no one to go to Hell and made a way for us to escape (JESUS). We have a choice: Hell exists because some refuse to believe in Jesus.



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Digging Deeper:

These last two weeks have carried a similar theme...is it possible for God to be all loving, all powerful, and all knowing? Last week it had to do with suffering, this week it's about suffering forever! The truth is, there is an element of this conversation we will never fully understand (Isaiah 55:8-9). However, we are invited by God to trust Him. Ultimately it comes down to our ability to say, "There is a God and it isn't me!"

Do you believe in the sovereignty of God? In other words, do you fully place yourself under the authority of God...when you understand what He's doing...when you don't understand what He's doing? Can you trust God, even in things that don't fully make sense? Remember, if you don't trust God, it doesn't mean things will suddenly make sense...now they don't make sense and you lose the hope of heaven.

In "The God Questions" Hal Seed shares some thoughts about why God created hell. Brainstorm some of those reasons now.

Pastor Jim shared 3 things that hell tells us about God. Talk about each one and how hell tells us these things:

1. Hell demonstrates God's holiness
2. Hell vindicates God's justice
3. Hell magnifies God's love and grace.

Resources:

Blog Post by Natasha Crain:

<http://christianmomthoughts.com/8-things-kids-should-know-about-hell/>