

## Personal Weekly Study Guide

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### Overview

This week's message confronted one of the most sobering and hopeful truths in all of Scripture: every person will spend eternity somewhere, and the only factor that determines where is a person's response to Jesus. Hell is real, heaven is real, and the urgency of both is meant to move us. Take a few minutes each day to read, reflect, and respond.

### A Quick Encouragement

Don't rush through this. These are not passages to skim — they are passages that, if taken seriously, have the power to reorient everything about how you live. Read slowly. Let the words land. When something stirs something in you, stop and pray before moving on. This isn't about finishing the study. It's about letting Scripture do what it was designed to do — change you from the inside out. You don't have to have it all figured out. Just show up honest, and let God meet you there.

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### Day 1 — Two Destinations, One Choice

**Read:** Luke 16:19-31 | Hebrews 9:27 | 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10

**Reflection:** The story of the rich man and Lazarus is not a parable — Jesus tells it as a real account. It shows that eternity is fixed, conscious, and entirely dependent on what a person does with God's truth.

**Questions:**

- What details from this story feel most surprising or uncomfortable to you?
- Hebrews 9:27 says we are all "destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." How does that reality shape how you're living right now?
- What does it mean to you personally that there are only two outcomes — not three or four?

### Day 2 — The Weight of Hell

**Read:** Mark 9:43 | Matthew 10:28 | Revelation 14:9-11 | John 3:18

**Reflection:** Jesus talked about hell more than anyone else in the New Testament. The language he used — fire, torment, fear, destruction — is consistent and intentional. This is not meant to terrorize us, but to wake us up to the seriousness of eternity.

**Questions:**

- When you read Jesus' own words about hell, do you take them literally? Why or why not?
- Matthew 10:28 tells us to fear the One who can destroy both body and soul. In what ways does fear of God actually produce freedom rather than anxiety?
- How does knowing the reality of hell change the way you feel about sharing your faith?

### Day 3 — The Glory of Heaven

**Read:** Revelation 21:1-8 | Revelation 21:9-22:5 | John 14:1-3 | 2 Corinthians 5:8

**Reflection:** Heaven is not clouds and harps — it's a fully restored creation. Eden is renewed. Death, mourning, and pain are gone. We receive resurrected bodies. We commune with God and reign with him on a new earth just as real as this one.

**Questions:**

- What part of John's description of heaven moves you most? Why?
- Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:8 that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. How does that promise change the way you think about death — either your own or a loved one's?
- How much does the hope of heaven actually shape your daily life? Be honest.

### Day 4 — The Finality of It All

**Read:** Revelation 20:11-15 | Luke 16:26 | Philippians 1:21-23 | 1 Corinthians 15:54-55

**Reflection:** Scripture gives no indication of a second chance after death. The verdict is final and forever. But for those who are in Christ, that finality becomes a source of joy — not dread. Death has lost its sting.

**Questions:**

- Is there someone you love who you are unsure about — someone whose eternity weighs on you? What do you do with that weight?
- Paul calls death "gain" in Philippians 1. What would need to be true about your relationship with Christ for you to feel that way?
- How does the finality of eternity change the urgency with which you approach today?

## Day 5 — The Only Way

**Read:** John 3:16-18 | Romans 10:9-10 | Acts 4:12 | Genesis 18:25

**Reflection:** Hell is what sin deserves. God is holy and just — he cannot accept what is broken into his perfect presence. But the cross changes everything. Repentance and faith in Jesus isn't a religious obligation — it's the only answer to the only problem that actually matters.

### Questions:

- In your own words, what does it mean to repent? What does it mean to have faith in Jesus — not just belief about him?
- Genesis 18:25 asks, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" How does trusting in God's perfect justice help you rest when eternity feels complicated?
- If the cross is "the backdrop that reveals the profound and unbelievable grace of God," — what is your response to that grace today?

## Weekly Prayer

*Lord, you are holy, just, and perfectly righteous. We worship you — not because we have to, but because you are worthy. We are undone by the weight of what your Word says about eternity, and we are overwhelmed by the grace you have provided through Jesus. We surrender our tendency to soften what you have clearly said, and we choose to trust you even when it is hard. Thank you that you do not leave us without hope. Thank you that death has been defeated, that heaven is real, and that our eternity has been secured not by our effort but by your grace. Give us hearts that long for you — and eyes that see the urgency of helping others find what we have found. You are good. You are faithful. We trust you with everything. Amen.*

