

Observations

Key Scriptures

Luke 16:19-31 "There was a rich man who dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus whose body was covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to eat what fell from the rich man's table. In addition, the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² "Now the poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And in hell, as he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far off with Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ So he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in anguish in this fire.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus likewise bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in anguish. ²⁶ Besides all this, a great chasm has been fixed between us, so that those who want to cross over from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' ²⁷ So the rich man said, 'Then I beg you, father— send Lazarus to my father's house ²⁸ (for I have five brothers) to warn them so that they don't come into this place of torment.' ²⁹ But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they must respond to them.' ³⁰ Then the rich man said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ He replied to him, 'If they do not respond to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Key Point: Write your own.



TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- The term Paradise is a picture of the Garden of God. What do you imagine it being like?

Start thinking: Jesus told this story but did not say if it was a parable or real event. However, He wanted us to get a real picture of some aspects of Heaven and Hell would be like. How many observations can you come up with as a group?

- Physical
- Emotional/mental
- Interpersonal
- Time & Space
- Other
- What conclusions can you draw from this story?

Start sharing: Questions to create openness.

- Tim Keller once said that the fire (v. 24) here was metaphorical . . . it was metaphorical for something infinitely worse. What is your opinion?
- How has this exercise impacted your understanding of the afterlife?

Start doing: As you read through the Bible, try to notice any time there is a mention or description of Heaven. Take some time to read the description of the new Heaven and new Earth in Revelation 21-22. As you do this it will give you an understanding of what God has planned for us to look forward to.

Prayer Requests: Spend time praying together about what you shared tonight. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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