

I. CHECK-IN

- Check in. How is everyone doing?
- Reflect on last week's challenge:
"Light a candle in honor of a loved one. As you do, light it with confidence that death does not get the final word and one day you will be reunited with your loved ones in heaven."

II. PRAYER

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

III. SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 10:28

Don't be afraid of those who kill the body but can't kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell.

MATTHEW 5:22

But I say to you that everyone who is angry with their brother or sister will be in danger of judgement. If they say to their brother or sister, 'You idiot' they will be in danger of being condemned by the governing council. And if they say 'You fool', they will be in danger of fiery hell.

MATTHEW 13:40

Just as people gather weeds and burn them in the fire, so it will be at the end of the present age. The human one will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that cause people to fall away and all people who sin. He will throw them into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

WORDS TRANSLATED TO HELL

Sheol: the literal place in which dead people are placed. For some people this simply meant a hole in the ground while for others it pointed to an afterlife in a subterranean world full of darkness.

Hades: This word is associated with Greek mythology, and was used to talk about the underground home of the dead. This is the Greek equivalent of the word sheol.

Tartarus: the deepest region of the world where the gods would lock up their enemies.

Gehenna: this word is actually talking about a literal valley just outside the walls of Jerusalem.

IV. CHALLENGE

Think about all the things that have influenced your understanding/view of hell. How have they shaped you and do you still agree with them?

V. DISCUSSION

- What stands out to you in the scriptures from above?
- What thoughts or understandings have you had regarding hell? What influenced those thoughts?
- Take a moment to look through the different words that are translated into the English word Hell. What stands out to you about the different definitions?
- Pastor Fernie mentions that the word most used by Jesus to talk about hell was Gehenna. He also talks about Gehenna as a literal valley of fire where trash would be burned up. How do you think this understanding of Gehenna influences your understanding of hell?
- We are reminded that God isn't out to find our faults to send us to heaven but rather inviting us into relationship with him. How does this understanding change your view of hell?