



Belief: What we believe
22-Mar: Eternity (heaven & hell)

Series Summary: Many view doctrine as something that is only important for pastors. Nothing could be further from the truth. What we believe matters. This is why Paul told young Timothy to watch his doctrine closely (1 Tim 4:16).

Big Idea/Question: If heaven and hell are real, then we must be sure of our salvation and the security of our future with Jesus. So, the question isn't just is heaven real, but can I know for sure that I'm going to heaven and nothing can change that?

GET THEM TALKING

What did Pastor Russell say that stuck out to you?

Why does what we believe about heaven and hell matter?

Have you ever heard someone question if heaven and hell are truly eternal? Or have you had questions yourself?

If you believe that heaven and hell are very literal and eternal places you will

Leader Note: There are numerous valid answers to this question, but one that sticks out to me is that it should lead to an urgency to share the Gospel. The biblical truth that heaven and hell are both real and eternal places should leave us with this realization of what is at stake here (eternity). If we truly believe that eternity is at

stake we will not keep putting off and putting off sharing the Gospel with someone we know.

GROUP DISCUSSION

(eternal security)

When is it the easiest to question if our salvation is promised? When is it tempting to question our salvation?

Leader Note (answer): For more people they question their salvation (or if they have lost it) when they have messed up. It is at our lowest moments of sinful rebellion against God that we ask the question, “could God still love and forgive me?” As we will see in scripture God’s word leaves no doubt about the permanence of God’s love and the security of our salvation.

If you believe that your salvation is secure how will that affect how you live out your faith and follow Jesus?

Leader Note (answer): For me knowing that my salvation is secure in Christ leaves me with A feeling of peace. I have peace because I know where my eternal home is. Nothing and no one can change that.

Read Romans 8:31-39 together as a group

How is God’s love unique from any other love?

Why is it so important that we can not gain more of God’s love or lose God’s love?

Leader Note (answer): God’s love can not be added to or subtracted from. We can not do more good works to earn more of God’s love. We can not mess up so much that God no longer loves us. Here are a couple of ways that should impact us...

1. When we have messed up and drifted farther away from the Lord we can still return to him (confession and repentance) because he still loves and cares for us.
2. Our good works (serving, reading the Bible, praying) are not a way of earning more of God’s love. Instead, our works are in response to God’s unchanging and abundant love.