



Sermon Discussion Guide

Sept. 20 & 21, 2025

"Is Hell Real & Does God Send People There?"

[Luke 12:4-10](#)

During this new series, we will dive into some of the most common and poignant questions about life after death. While we have been given the assurance of everlasting life through Jesus, this topic can stir up a lot of emotions. Join us as we see what the Bible has to say.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on hopeonline.tv. Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read [Luke 12:4-10](#) – "A Warning Against Hypocrisy"

- How does Jesus' command to "fear God, not people" reframe your fears?
- Jesus says God knows the number of hairs on your head—how does this speak to his care for you personally?
- Why do you think Jesus links fearing God with not being afraid (v.7)?
- Jesus warns about rejecting the Son of Man and blaspheming the Holy Spirit (vv.8–10). What does this teach you about the seriousness of unbelief? How could you gently encourage someone who seems to be walking away from faith?

Read [Matthew 7:13-14](#) – "The Narrow Gate"

- Jesus describes two gates—one wide and one narrow. What do you think the "wide gate" represents in today's world? What would be one small step you could take this week to intentionally choose the "narrow gate"?
- Why do you think Jesus says, "Only a few ever find it"? Does that sound discouraging or motivating to you?
- The narrow road is described as "difficult" but leading to life. Where have you experienced faith being difficult but ultimately life-giving?
- What does this passage teach about urgency in our spiritual lives? How might this change how you use your time this week?

Read [Luke 16:19-26](#) – "Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus"

- What stands out to you most in Jesus' description of the rich man and Lazarus after they die?
- What attitudes or blind spots might have kept the rich man from seeing Lazarus and helping him while he was alive? How can wealth, comfort, or success blind us to our need for God?
- How does the "great chasm" in this story help us understand the seriousness of being separated from God?
- Who in your life might need to hear there is hope and room "on the lifeboat"?

Read [2 Thessalonians 1:8-9](#) – "Encouragement During Persecution"

- How do you feel when you read that God will bring judgment on those who reject him?
- How does this warning help us better appreciate the gift of grace offered through Jesus?
- Why do you think separation from God is described as "eternal destruction"? How might this be even more sobering than images of fire or darkness?
- How should the reality of eternal separation from God shape the way we interact with others?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week.

- **Name your fear and surrender it.** This week, write down one fear or anxiety that has been weighing on you most. Each morning, pray specifically to entrust that fear to God, asking him to help you "fear him and not people" as Jesus commands.
- **Reach out to someone spiritually stuck.** Identify one person who may be walking away from faith or who doesn't yet know Christ. Pray for them by name daily, and look for a natural moment this week to show them kindness or ask a thoughtful question that points them toward hope.
- **Actively choose the narrow path.** Choose one area where you've been tempted to go along with the crowd or ignore God's truth. Take a tangible step of obedience this week that honors Christ, even if it feels difficult or unpopular—such as apologizing, refusing gossip, or serving someone in need.