

Growth Group Preparation Questions

For the week of May 1, 2022

Do Non-Christians Really Deserve Eternal Punishment?

Big Idea: Since God is holy and humanity is sinful, we justly deserve eternal punishment.

Goal: To logically, scripturally, and emotionally show the Big Idea.

Prepare

This week we're diving into Scripture asking God to teach us about who deserves eternal punishment. The personal preparation time and discussion are meant to help us flesh out what we've learned through the sermon and apply it more thoroughly in our lives together.

Watch Pastor Shawn's sermon, *Do Non-Christians Really Deserve Eternal Punishment*, noting anything memorable and impactful as you go.

Pray: Father, grow our view of Your holiness, our sinfulness, the penalty for the chasm, and the rescue You provide.

Connect (5 min)

1. What are some things you've done for which you deserved serious punishment but didn't receive it?
2. Share about a time the natural consequences from your actions were punishment enough.

Discussion (35 min) Take some time to personally reflect on these questions after viewing the sermon and before your G2. It could make for a great morning devotional time! You can type and save your responses in the FBC app privately if you would like. **You'll find working through them ahead of time greatly enhances the G2 experience for all involved! These questions are a guide. Add and remove as best fits your group and flow of discussion.**

1. The 4 points this week are: 1. God is holy. 2. Humanity is sinful. 3. God justly judges sin. 4. God offers escape from eternal punishment. Which of those has been easiest for you to accept and apply?
 - a. Which has been most difficult? Why?
2. **Read Exodus 33:18-23; 34:6-7.** Describe how seriously you take God's holiness.
3. **Read Exodus 34:8-9 and Isaiah 6:1-6.** What do you think you would do if you came face-to-face with God today? Defend your answer from these Scriptures and search for more.
4. Describe how seriously you take your sinfulness.
5. **Read Romans 3:10-18.** How does this help you understand yourself?

6. In your more fleshly thoughts, what people deserve eternal punishment more than others? *In the Holy Spirit we recognize all deserve the same fate. In our old manner of thinking (fleshly) we tend to think more in scales and continuums.* After answering, compare to **Romans 3:23**.
7. Who in your life is it hard to imagine deserving eternal punishment?
8. How do you really feel about eternal punishment and how do you reconcile those feelings with the truth of Scripture?
9. What is your next step as a result of this sermon and discussion? *Repent, trusting Jesus for salvation? Tell someone about these 4 truths? Acknowledge my ongoing sin and seek the Holy Spirit to grow out of it while reconciling with others as needed?*

Closing Prayer (15 min) This prayer section is a guide to help process with God what you've learned about Him and yourself through the sermon, personal preparation time, and discussion, then seek the Holy Spirit's power in applying it in your life. Sharing these responses in your G2 will help others gain insight into God and themselves while also helping and encouraging toward growth. *Please be intentional about getting to prayer time.*

Admire: What have you learned about God through this sermon, discussion, and Scripture? Praise Him for it. **Possible response:** God we praise You because You are more holy than we could ever imagine.

Admit: What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you as areas where you are falling short? Confess it to God. **Possible response:** God, we confess we are more sinful than we could ever imagine.

Aspire: What is a specific change you want to see in your life or action you and/or your G2 could take based in this time of interaction? **Possible Response:** God help us rest in Your gracious, sacrificial salvation for our sin so we can experience Your holiness.

Ask: Keep track of requests and celebrations from others in your G2 and pray for them.

- *At least once per month, try to split men and women for this section. There are often things men will only share with other men and women with other women. It's a great way to begin building deeper relationships.*
- *Give each person an opportunity to share any prayer needs in addition to those above.*
- *Some G2s get more engagement with this method: As a person mentions a request, you might have another person in the group pray for that need immediately and continue until everyone has had a chance to share. Try to have someone different pray for each person with a request.*
- *If there are methods that are working well for your group, please share them!*