**Learn in Community**



Small Group Study



**Volume Overview**

**What does the Bible say about the future?**

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” ([1 Corinthians 2:9](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Co2.9))

*Many people want to know what the Bible says regarding the future. What is judgment all about? What does the Bible say about rewards for those who serve God? What do we know about the return of Jesus? What does this mean for our life while we wait for His return? These are just a few of the topics we’ll explore through this volume.*

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| ***You Will Need***  *No supplies needed.*  ***Getting Ready***  *• First time leading* Learn *for Youth? Look here for the* [***Facilitator Guide***](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf)*.* |

To access session content and videos from a computer, visit: [BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads)

**Engage**

**Welcome**

*Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming. Your friendliness here can create comfort levels that encourage student participation later.*

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| **QUESTION**  What is something in life you wish you understood but you currently don’t? |

**Opening Prayer**

*Prayer thoughts: Thank Jesus for bringing all of us together today. Thank Him for His presence through the Holy Spirit and that He desires relationship with us. Ask for ears to hear what His Spirit is saying.*

**Introduction**

For some people, making decisions is stressful. For others, it can be exciting to decide on something. Decisions are made because we are presented with a choice. So today, let’s see what some of you decide based on the choices presented.

**Group Activity**

**This or That**

*No supplies needed for this activity.*

I’m going to give you a series of two choices. You’ll show me your preference by walking to one side or the other of the room. If you prefer the first choice, go to your left. If you prefer the second, go to your right. Let’s begin.

• Early mornings or late nights?

• Chocolate ice cream or vanilla ice cream?

• Hamburgers or hot dogs?

• Social media or texting?

• Beach or mountains?

• Ocean or lake?

• Water skiing or snow skiing?

• Studying for a test or doing homework?

• Learning to skydive or learning to scuba dive?

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| **QUESTION**  Which choice was the hardest for you to make? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**  Why is making decisions difficult at times? |

Choices can be difficult to make, especially ones that have bigger consequences. The biggest decision you’ll make in life is where you spend eternity. Each one of us will need to make this decision while we’re living. Once Jesus comes back, it will be too late. Let’s watch this video.

**Watch**



**Consider What the Bible Says**

*Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.*

We’re going to read a Bible story that will help us think about the future judgment we all face. The Bible shows us that we all have choices in life that we’ll be judged on later. The choice to serve Jesus or not is the most important because it will ultimately determine where you spend eternity. Your choice will result in spending eternity with God or being separated from Him.

**Your Choices in Life Determine What Happens after Death**

Read [Luke 16:19–23](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk16.19-23).

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| **QUESTION**  What was the difference between the two men during their lifetimes? |

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| **QUESTION**  Where did the poor man go when he died? Where did the rich man go? |

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| **QUESTION**  Do riches on earth always mean our life is right with God? Explain. |

One of the main ideas in this story Jesus told is how a person’s life and afterlife can be drastically different. People sometimes make judgments about someone based on their lifestyle. They may assume someone is smart or hardworking because they’re wealthy. Or they may assume that someone with difficulties has been bad and deserves their situation. Jesus was helping His listeners know that the status of someone’s heart could be radically different from their lifestyle. And after death, the tables are sometimes turned based on that heart status.

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| **QUESTION**  Do you think Jesus has a right to judge others? Why do you think this? |

**Did You Know?**

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| The name of the beggar, Lazarus, was a common Greek form of the Hebrew name Eleazar, meaning “God has helped me.” Jesus’ use of the beggar’s name, while not including the name of “the rich man,” was an indicator of his Hebrew-speaking audience. Although the man was a beggar, he relied on God the Father to help him fulfill his daily needs, unlike the nameless rich man. |

**Jesus’ Judgment after Death Is Final**

Read [Luke 16:24–26](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk16.24-26).

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| **QUESTION**  How did the rich man’s status get flipped after his death? |

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| **QUESTION**  Do you think having nice things on earth means you’ll always have a bad life following death? Explain. |

This story isn’t saying that all rich people go to torment after death. But it should help us realize that if we’re wealthy on earth, what we do with our riches matters. The rich man had no pity on Lazarus laying at his gate, and after death, he was the one looking for pity. Being kind, helping others, and giving are all good ways we can use what God gives us.

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| **QUESTION**  How does this story show us that judgment after death is final? |

This story depicts a separation between those receiving reward after life and those being punished. And in this depiction, Abraham lets the rich man know that no one can cross between the two fates. Judgment after death is a reality, and like this story, once it’s happened, the results are final.

Read [Acts 17:30–31](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac17.30-31).

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| **QUESTION**  What does it mean to repent of our sins? |

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| **QUESTION**  Why is this important to do while we’re on earth? |

**We Can Be Ready for Judgment**

Read [Luke 16:27–31](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk16.27-31).

The rich man wanted Lazarus to warn his brothers about the judgment he had received and tell them how to avoid the same for their lives. While it’s good that he was concerned about his family’s eternal destiny, his request still shows his focus on his own interests.

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| **QUESTION**  What was Abraham’s response to the rich man’s request? |

Mentioning Moses and the prophets is most likely a reference to their writings which make up two-thirds of the Jewish Bible (our Old Testament). The point was, if the very Word of God couldn’t change their minds, then not even a resurrected Lazarus could.

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| **QUESTION**  What do we have available now that could help to warn our family and us? |

God’s Word provides great information to help us be ready. God also speaks to our heart through the Holy Spirit to convict us when we’re doing wrong. He can even use leaders in the church to be a great help. There are many ways God speaks to steer us away from judgment.

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| **QUESTION**  What surprised you the most about the story of the rich man and Lazarus? Why? |

If you have a right relationship with Jesus, this next verse is a great one to know when it comes to judgment.

Read [2 Corinthians 5:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Co5.10).

But for those who choose to reject Jesus and pursue evil, that passage can be terrifying. Everything we do in this life matters. But while we’re alive, it’s never too late to turn things around and start life in a new direction toward Jesus and doing good.

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| **QUESTION**  What determines what we will receive following death? |

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| **QUESTION**  What are some things we can do while on earth to ensure a good reward? |

**Reflect**

**Jesus Will Judge All People**

Although this topic may be heavy, it’s important to seriously contemplate and understand that Jesus will judge each and every one of us. [Revelation 20:11–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Re20.11-15) depicts those who have died without committing to Jesus standing before God’s throne. It will be a grim reality for everyone who chooses against life through Jesus.

**Listen to God**

Let’s pause and listen to what God might want to say to us about what we have read and shared. Answering the following questions is completely voluntary. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. However, you may want to share your response with the group, but no one should feel obligated.

• *Optional: Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

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| **QUESTION**  What may God’s Holy Spirit be saying to you about being an influence for good in the world around you? |

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| **QUESTION**  Based on your life so far, would you say you have a good or bad reward waiting for you following your life? |

The goal here is not to bring guilt or shame. Instead, be challenged to finish strong by doing good while here on earth.

**Activate**

Let me remind you that Jesus is standing before you with His arms open wide, ready to receive you. When you confess your sins and accept Him as your Savior, you will be made right in His sight through His blood ([Romans 3:23–26](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro3.23-26)). It’s a fresh start for you and an opportunity to become a force for good.

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| **Salvation Opportunity**  *Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.*  We are all faced with the same decision. Our reward after this life is based on our decision while on earth. In addition, where we will spend eternity is based on a decision. Have you decided to surrender your life to Jesus while on earth? This decision has eternal consequences for each of us. Are you ready to make this decision now?  **Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn’t have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him**  *Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as you close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.* |

**Conclusion**

Knowing that Jesus will judge all people, it’s important that we talk about His salvation offer with others. He is coming again, and Jesus has been appointed to judge the living and the dead. Let’s help as many people as we can to be ready.

**Prayer**

Father God, because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross, we can be cleansed from sin. He made it possible for us to be made right in Your sight. Thank you for the opportunity to walk out of here confident about where we’ll spend eternity. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Don’t forget the personal devotions provided for you on the app. I look forward to seeing each of you next time as we continue our journey through God’s Word.