

Group Guide

Ice-Breaker Questions

1. When you were a kid, what team, group, or side did everyone want to be on?
2. Why do people avoid talking seriously about eternity?

Reflection Questions – Read Matthew 25:31-46

3. Jesus says He will return in glory and judge all nations. If you knew for a fact that He would return next week, how would this week look different? (Matthew 25:31-33; Revelation 1:7)
4. Jesus presents eternity as two teams, two verdicts, and two destinations. What does that confront in the way our culture talks about death, judgment, and “being a good person”? (Matthew 25:31-46)
5. Jesus says to the sheep, “Come.” Why is being with God the greatest joy of heaven? (Matthew 25:34; Revelation 21:3-4; Revelation 22:4)
6. Consignment to hell begins with one word: “Depart.” Why is separation from God worse than any physical image Jesus uses to describe hell? (Matthew 25:41; 2 Thessalonians 1:9)
7. Jesus says hell was prepared for the devil and his angels, not originally for humanity. What does that teach us about God’s heart, human responsibility, and the seriousness of rejecting Christ? (2 Peter 3:9)

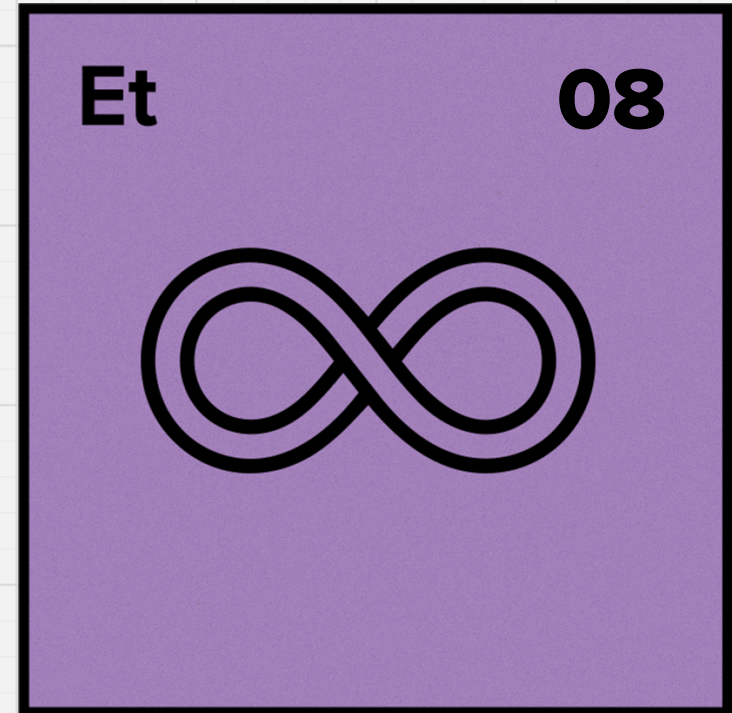
Action-Oriented Questions

8. The sheep are surprised by their own mercy. What would have to change in you for compassion to become natural rather than calculated? (Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 5:22-23)
9. If good works are the evidence of salvation, not the cause, where do you see evidence that Jesus is changing what you love, notice, and do? (Matthew 25:35-40; Ephesians 2:8-10)
10. Eternity is long, heaven is glorious, hell is real, and only Jesus saves. Whose eternity are you praying about with real urgency? (John 14:6; Romans 10:1)

Prayer Focus: Pray for confidence in Christ’s return, joy in the promise of heaven, seriousness about hell, and urgency for the lost. Ask God to make us people who listen to Jesus, look like Jesus, and lead others to Jesus.



Eternity



Elements of Faith

Teaching Guide

July 26, 2026

We believe...every person will exist eternally, either united with God in heaven through faith in Jesus or separated from God in hell because of sin and unbelief. Heaven and hell are real places.

When Christ returns...

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left." (Matthew 25:31-33)

1. Jesus will sit on His throne of _____ and not on his throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16).
2. Jesus will judge _____ people.
3. Jesus will separate all people as _____ and _____ on his right and left.
 - Sheep are stupid and unimpressive, but they will listen and follow. Goats are smart, but rambunctious and rebellious.
 - The right hand is the hand of honor, power, and cleanliness. The left hand is the hand of dishonor and uncleanness.

Heaven...

(Matthew 25:34)

1. Heaven is _____ God.
 - "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come...'" (v.34)
2. Heaven is _____ than you can imagine.
 - "...take your inheritance, the kingdom..." (v.34)

3. Heaven is full of joy and _____.
 - "He [God] will wipe every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 20:4)
4. Heaven is _____ for you.
 - "...prepared for you since the creation of the world." (v.34)

Hell...

(Matthew 25:41)

1. Hell is _____ from God.
 - "Depart from me..." (v.41)
2. Hell is _____ than you think.
 - "...eternal fire..." (v.41)
 - "...darkness..." (v.30)
3. Hell is full of _____ and _____.
 - "...where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (v.30)
4. Hell is not _____ for humans.
 - "...prepared for the devil and his angels." (v.41)

How do I know I am with Jesus?

(Matthew 25:35-40, 42-45)

- Look for the _____.
- "For I was hungry and you gave me food..." (v.35)
- Fruit is the proof of salvation, not the payment for salvation. If Jesus has saved you, the fruit will show and grow.
- The sheep were surprised because they were not keeping score. Mercy naturally flowed from a changed life.

Response: Ask Jesus to search your heart, save you by grace, and make your life look more like His.