



Week Leading up to 11.22.20: Heaven and Hell

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: MT 25:31-46

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, it is our greatest desire to be in heaven with You. Allow us to look past the desires of the flesh and our own comfort. May our relationship with You build in us a genuine desire to serve one another in sacrificial love. We thank You in great gratitude for Your redeeming grace. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. What is your perspective on Heaven and Hell? Why do you believe this?

YouTube Video: Bishop Barron on Whether Hell is Crowded or Empty (9:24) <https://youtu.be/dmsa0sg4Od4>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Did you find anything interesting or striking about the different perspectives regarding salvation from the historical theologians Bishop Barron talked about in the video?
3. Hans Urs von Balthasar's view of salvation was "we may reasonably hope that all people will be saved" because of Jesus' death and resurrection. Do you agree with his view of salvation? Why or why not?
4. Do you think/feel hell is a place or a condition/state of being? Why?
5. At death, do you think how we lived our lives will play a part in our entry into heaven? Why or why not?
6. C.S. Lewis stated "the door to Hell is always locked from the inside". What does this mean to you? Could some people accidentally lock the door or do they choose to do it? Why would anyone choose this?
7. What does being ready to die mean to you? What steps are you taking to prepare?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or all}

- Go to confession this week with a desire to draw closer to Jesus through forgiveness and healing.
- Say the "Our Father" each day and ponder on the first 6 words in the prayer.
- Read CCC 1033-1060.
- When you go to Communion this week, remember these words from Jesus, "*whoever eats my Body and drinks my Blood will have eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day.*" (Bread of Life Discourse-Jn. 6)

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Dear God, place on our hearts a holy fear of hell. We understand that genuine joy we experience on earth is but a glimpse of the joy of heaven. May we never take our eyes off of spending eternity with You. Jesus, we call on Your continued protection from the evil that prowls about in this world. Holy Spirit, stir in us awareness and generosity, so that we recognize the needs of our neighbor. Most of all, transform us into Your loving disciples filled with eagerness and fortitude to share Your Good News with those in our lives. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings}

Sunday Reading 1: EZ 34:11-12, 15-17 Sunday Reading 2: 1 COR 15:20-26, 28

{Additional Helpful Information}

<http://www.integratedcatholiclife.org/2018/09/deacon-bickerstaff-the-four-last-things-heaven-and-hell/>