



## Week Leading up to 9.26.21: Hell and Freedom

**\*{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: Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48**

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

*Dear Jesus, we come to You a broken people. We fully acknowledge our sinfulness. It is only through You that we can find true love and freedom. Open our hearts to understand this and become ever aware of how we fail You on a daily basis. Open our eyes to understand what and who love is. Grow in us a desire to help others know You through our words and deeds and be a living example of You in this world. Amen*

### **Reflection or Discussion Question:**

1. This reading talks about the unquenchable fire. Do you believe in hell? What do you think hell is like?

**YouTube Video:** Bishop Barron on Hell (7:02) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8zhnooySk4>

### **Reflection or Discussion Questions:**

2. What does it mean to you that God is love? Have you ever struggled with the concept of a loving God and the eternity of hell? What objections to hell do you have or have run across from others?
3. What does freedom in terms of our relationship with God and faith mean to you? Do you find freedom and submission to God are interlinked? If so, how?
4. Do you think/feel sin and freedom are connected? If so, how?
5. Do you believe that people send themselves to hell or willingly choose hell? Do you think it's easier to enter hell or heaven?
6. Fr. Barron explained the C.S. Lewis quote, "The love of God lights up the fires of hell" by saying that if we turn away from God's love, it becomes a torture to us. What do you think/feel about this?

**{Leaders please let your group know that if they have any additional questions regarding the session today, that they are encouraged to follow up with Mike Chamberland at [mchamberland@olsorrows.com](mailto:mchamberland@olsorrows.com) or by calling 248-474-5720.}**

**Session Challenges:** {Choose one or both}

- Read more about hell in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, CCC [632-635](#), [1033-1037](#), [1861-1869](#)
- Open your heart to God in prayer by letting Him know how you have failed Him. Make an effort to go to confession this week.

**Closing Prayer:** (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Dear Jesus, You offer us true freedom. We pray that we always choose to embrace that great gift. You have freed us from eternal separation from You through Your loving sacrifice. May we grow in obedience, understanding, and wisdom. Ignite in us a willingness to commit fully to You both in body and spirit. Fill us with the grace we need to turn away from sin and to love more perfectly. We ask for the intercession of our Holy Mother and all of the angels and saints that we, too, may join You in Your full glory in heaven. In Your Holy Name, we pray. Amen.*

**{Optional additional Readings}** Sunday Reading 1: **Nm 11:25-29** Sunday Reading 2: **Jas 5:1-6**