



## For Small Groups Meeting the Week of February 28

### **BIG IDEA: WE WILL ALL BE JUDGED AND WE GET TO CHOOSE WHICH JUDGMENT WE STAND BEFORE**

#### **CONNECT** with God's family: (15 minutes)

1. Have you ever been to court for any reason, and how did you feel about it at the time?
2. Why do you think human beings crave justice but also fear judgment?

#### **GROW** in Christ: (45 minutes)

This week we focus on what the Bible says about the future judgment that all people will eventually face and how to be prepared for it.

#### **Read aloud the following passages from the Bible.**

(The great white throne judgment for all mankind)

*And I saw a great white throne, and I saw the one who was sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. [12] I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to the things written in the books, according to what they had done. [13] The sea gave up the dead in it, and death and the grave gave up the dead in them. They were all judged according to their deeds. [14] And death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire. [15] And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Rev. 20:11-15 (NLT)

(The Bema seat of Christ judgment for believers)

*For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in our bodies.* 2 Cor. 5:10 (NLT)

*So be careful not to jump to conclusions before the Lord returns as to whether or not someone is faithful. When the Lord comes, he will bring our deepest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. And then God will give to everyone whatever praise is due.*

1 Cor. 4:5 (NLT)

*Let us be glad and rejoice and honor him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself.*

Rev. 19:7 (NLT)

### Discussion Questions.

1. According to Revelation 20, the books will be opened at the great white throne judgment. The book of life and the books of how you've lived your life. Talk about the benefits of having your name in the book of life.
2. In Revelation 20:12, what types of people are at this judgment, and how is that a sobering thought to you?
3. Heaven is a free gift to all who believe, but Corinthians 5:10 describes the Bema seat judgment which is for the purpose of handing out rewards to believers. According to this passage, what will those rewards be based on?
4. Does the fact that Christ will reward faithful service motivate you? Why or why not?
5. 1 Cor. 4:5 warns against judging a person's motives for serving. Can you think of some reasons why judging the motives of those who serve is destructive?

### **SERVE** others: (10 minutes)

Review the main points of this weeks' Bible message.

### Two Judgments:

- 1) The Great White Throne of judgment (Non-believers) **Revelation 20:11-15**

2) The Bema Seat of Christ (Believers) **2 Corinthians 5:10**

---What will we be judged for?

Time

Talents

Treasures

MOTIVES

---- Rewards

- 1) Crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4) -- to those who teach
- 2) Crown of life (James 1:12, Rev. 2:10) --those who endured trials/tribulations
- 3) Crown of incorruption (1 Cor. 9:25) -- those who lived a disciplined spiritual life
- 4) Crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8) -- stewards
- 5) Crown of rejoicing (1 Thess. 2:19-20) -- those who shared their faith with others

**SHARE Christ:** (10 minutes)

**Memory Verse:**

*So be careful not to jump to conclusions before the Lord returns as to whether or not someone is faithful.*

1 Cor. 4:5 (NLT)

1. You will most likely be misunderstood and misjudged if you serve Christ in this world. But Christ will judge rightly in the end. How can that motivate you in areas of service and dealing with criticism? And how can that help you keep sharing Christ with people?

**WORSHIP**

Prayer is an important part of our relationship with God. Let's encourage each other in prayer this week.

Answer the question, "How can we help you in prayer this week?"

**People I am praying for this week:**

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