

# SESSION 11 FAMILY GUIDE

## WILL GOD REALLY JUDGE ME?

**The Bible tells us what is true about judgment.**

One day all people will stand to give an account of their lives before God. In His mercy, God sent Jesus to take the full punishment for our sin and plead guilty on our behalf. Those who are in Christ Jesus will find that every sin has been forgiven forever. Still, how we live matters. Will we show our faith to be genuine by how we love God and others, or will we live how we want without regard to Jesus' commands?

**Key Verse:** *Numbers 14:18*

**Key Passages:** *Luke 16:19-31;*

*Revelation 20:11-15*

## STUDY

Why do faith and right actions matter?

- Jesus tells the story of the rich man and Lazarus to help us understand that how we live our life matters. We cannot expect to live only for ourselves, doing what pleases us without regard to God's commands. Jesus said that the greatest commandments are to love God and love others. (See Matt.22:38-39.) Our right actions do not save us, but they are the evidence of a life of faith. God sees our good deeds and recognizes them as the fruits or evidence of our faith.

Is God's judgment really just?

- One attribute or character trait of God that seems to make people uneasy or upset is that God is just. Common questions about God and justice are, "Isn't God all-loving? How can He send people to hell?" The problem with this idea of thinking is that we believe we do not deserve God's punishment for our sin. This couldn't be further from the truth. Every single person is deserving of God's just punishment for sin. God's holiness cannot let sinful, unrepentant people enter heaven, and God's justice gives just punishment. But that's not all! God's holiness and justice has also provided a way for us to be forgiven and found not guilty! In Jesus, all of our sin is forgiven and His righteousness is placed on us.

What will the final judgment be like?

- God does not desire that anyone should be separated from Him, but His mercy and grace will not last forever. Eventually, judgment will come to us all, and this judgment only has two outcomes: live with Christ forever, or be separated from Him forever. At the final judgment, books will be opened. Several books will contain what we have done (*our actions*). One book will contain the book of life. In this book are written the names of everyone who has repented and turned to Jesus for salvation. Because of Jesus, Christians will experience God's loving kindness, grace, and mercy with Him forever.

## DISCUSS

- What does it mean to reject God/Jesus?
- How does Jesus' sacrifice for our sins satisfy the wrath of God?
- Why should Christians look forward to Christ's return and judgment?

## PRAY

Pray over your preteen asking God to help him to know the love of God. Ask God to help your preteen bear fruits of their faith and show a lost world the love of Christ. Thank God for His Son, Jesus, who will judge us according to His righteousness and find us not guilty.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Eschatology is a fancy word for the study of the end times. Right now we live in the tension of the "already but not yet." Christ has come once, but He has not yet come back. He will come again. As a family, study the verses listed to see how the Bible describes the end times. Discuss how we can find hope in knowing Jesus is coming again.

- Joel 2:28-3; 2 Timothy 3:1-5;  
Matthew 24:1-51; 2 Peter 3:10-13;  
2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 20-22