



WHAT'S AFTER Life?

'Hellish Experiences'

Over the past several weeks, we have learned about the hope of heaven through those who have had near-death experiences. But not all near-death experiences are blissful. Some are downright hellish. Jesus taught that hell is just as real as heaven, but he doesn't want any human to go there. So how can a loving God allow so much suffering?

Ice-Breakers:

Think about how culture, movies, books, and TV have depicted hell. What was your favorite fictional depiction? What do you think they got right and wrong?

Questions:

1. **When Read I John 2:16.** Jesus gave his life to remove every barrier between us and Him — except our pride. Is there an area in your life where pride is still winning? How can God help you overcome that pride?
2. **Read Matthew 18:14, John 3:19-21, John 3:15-16.** If God doesn't want any human going to hell, then why is that an option?
3. **Read Romans 8:18-38.** The suffering you experience on earth is real, but what if God allows hardships to be a loving warning to us? If love must be free, He won't force us to accept His gift of eternal life. Perhaps He uses what happens to us to help point us to Him.
 - In what ways have you seen God use suffering to draw you closer to Him?
 - Think of a hard circumstance you've experienced, but came out with a new perspective or lease on life. Why was that?
4. **Read Romans 12:2.** What, if anything, is holding you back from realizing that God's will for us is good?

Application:

This week make the intentional choice to obey His will moment by moment. Work to not be deceived into thinking your ways are better. Trust God and watch the kind of freedom that may bring you.