



Small Group Study Guide for September 29, 2019

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Faith puts us on a track to an eternal destination. Jesus speaks of heaven and hell in very real terms, and points to faith in God's Word to bring us to eternal life with Him.

Getting Started:

1. What things are you looking forward to the most when you get to heaven?
2. What are some of the big questions you have about heaven that the Bible doesn't really answer?

In the Word: Luke 16:19-31

3. How does Jesus describe the wealthy man in this story, and what are the indicators that he is rich?
4. It is interesting that the poor man has a name. Who else was named Lazarus in the New Testament? (see John chapter 11)
5. The name *Lazarus* is a Greek rendering of an Old Testament Hebrew name, *Eleazar*. Who was Eleazar and why was he such an important Old Testament figure? (see Numbers 20:25-28)
6. How does Jesus describe heaven, where the poor man goes after he dies?
7. How does Jesus describe hell, where the rich man ends up after his death?
8. Abraham is somehow able to speak with the rich man in Hades. Since this is a parable-like story, we should not press all the details too far in describing heaven and hell. Yet what does Abraham say prevents people from going back and forth?

9. For the first time, the rich man thinks about other people. Who is he worried about in verse 27?

10. Abraham says that the five brothers have a valid opportunity to get to heaven. What do these brothers have to bring them to eternal life? (verse 29)

11. The rich man thinks that the Scriptures aren't good enough to bring his brothers to saving faith. But perhaps someone rising from the dead would do it! How does Abraham's response actually speak to the way people received Jesus?

Putting it all together:

12. Why do you think Jesus chose a rich man to be the "bad guy" in this story? (see Jesus' words in Luke 6:24-26)

13. Abraham pointed the rich man to Moses and the Prophets. There are plenty of people who do not believe in the Scriptures today. What do you think is the link between doubting the Bible and doubting the resurrection of Jesus?

14. Even if someone were raised from the dead today (which there are accounts of missionaries seeing miracles including resurrection), most people generally would still refuse to believe in Jesus. What is essential to professing Jesus as Savior and Lord? (1 Corinthians 12:3)

Prayer: Thank God for the Holy Spirit who creates and sustains our faith in Christ, and helps us to believe and speak about Jesus. Also pray for the lost people in your life who do not yet believe Moses, the Prophets, or the Good News of Jesus' resurrection. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue working on their hearts to plant the seeds of faith or to fan into flame the embers that are there.

Next Week – TOGETHER IN CHRIST: Our Capital Campaign kicks off October 6 with our preaching series on TOGETHER. Watch your mail for the campaign packet this week containing the Case Statement, Pledge Card, and TOGETHER devotion booklet. It all starts where it should – TOGETHER in Christ.