

DMJ 101 – Lesson 3: The Cross and Our Eternal Destination

Small Group Bible Discussion Guide (SALT Method)

Objective: To help participants understand the reality of life after death, the permanence of eternity, and why everyone must personally respond to God's offer of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Main Passage: Luke 16:19–31

Key Truth: Every person will enter eternity, but Jesus died on the Cross and rose again so that everyone who trusts in Him can receive eternal life with God.

S — START

Icebreaker

Ask the group: "If you knew you only had one year left to live, what would you focus on most?"

Allow participants to share their thoughts.

Introduction

Most people spend a great deal of time planning for retirement, careers, education, and finances. Yet many spend little time thinking about eternity.

The Bible teaches that physical life is short compared to eternity.

Read **Psalm 90:10**.

Discuss:

- Why do people avoid talking about death?
- Why is it important to think about what happens after life on earth?

Illustration: The Ocean Transfer

Imagine a tiny bird carrying one drop of water at a time from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. After every drop from the entire ocean has been transferred, eternity would only be beginning.

Transition:

If eternity is forever, then where we spend eternity is the most important decision of our lives.

A — ALIGN

1. Death Opens the Door to Eternity

Read: Luke 16:19–23

Introduce the two characters:

- The Rich Man—wealthy and self-indulgent.
- Lazarus—poor, suffering, yet faithful.

After death:

- Lazarus was comforted in Abraham's bosom (heaven).
- The Rich Man was in Hades (hell).

Discussion Questions

1. What surprises you about this story?
2. What does this teach us about life after death?
3. Did wealth or poverty determine their eternal destination?

Core Principle: Physical death is not the end of our existence. After death, every person enters an eternal reality.

2. Our Eternal Destination Cannot Be Changed After Death

Read: Luke 16:24–26

The rich man wanted relief from his suffering.

However, Abraham explained that a great chasm separated the two places and no one could cross it.

Discussion Questions

1. What does this passage teach about the permanence of eternity?

2. Why is this truth both serious and urgent?
3. How should this affect the way we live today?

Core Principle: The time to respond to God's offer of salvation is during this life. After death, our eternal destination is final.

3. God's Word Warns Us and Points Us to Salvation

Read: Luke 16:27–31

The rich man wanted someone to warn his family.

Abraham replied that they already had Moses and the Prophets—the Word of God.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do people often demand signs before believing?
2. Is God's Word sufficient to guide us to truth?
3. What are some reasons people ignore God's warnings?

Core Principle: God lovingly warns us through His Word and calls us to repent and believe before it is too late.

4. Heaven and Hell Are Eternal Realities

How the Bible Describes Hell

Read:

- Mark 9:47–48
- Matthew 25:30
- Luke 13:28
- Revelation 21:8

The Bible describes hell as a place of:

- Separation from God
- Suffering and torment
- Darkness
- Weeping and gnashing of teeth
- Unquenchable fire
- Permanent judgment

How the Bible Describes Heaven

Read:

- Revelation 21:4
- Revelation 21:18–27

The Bible describes heaven as a place of:

- God's presence
- No death
- No sorrow
- No pain
- No crying
- Perfect joy and peace

Discussion Question

If heaven and hell are real, how should that influence our priorities today?

Core Principle: Heaven is eternal life in God's presence, while hell is eternal separation from Him. Both are real, and every person must consider where they will spend eternity.

L — LIVE

Illustration: The Boarding Gate

Imagine arriving at an airport for an international flight.

You may have luggage, money, education, influence, and achievements. But if your name is not on the passenger list, none of those things will get you on the plane.

In the same way, heaven is not entered through accomplishments, religious activities, or personal goodness. Entry is possible only through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Life Reflection

Ask:

1. What do people commonly trust to secure their future?
2. What are some things people rely on instead of Jesus?
3. How would your decisions change if you consistently remembered eternity?
4. Are there areas of your life that need to be aligned with eternal values?

Personal Reflection

Invite everyone to quietly consider:

- Am I certain of my eternal destination?
- Have I personally received God's gift of salvation?
- Am I living with eternity in mind?
- If my life ended today, am I prepared to meet God?

T — TRANSFER

The Good News

The reality of heaven and hell is serious, but God offers hope.

Read:

- Romans 3:23
- Romans 6:23
- John 1:12

Key truths:

- Everyone has sinned.
- Sin leads to death.
- Jesus paid the penalty for our sins.
- Eternal life is God's free gift.
- Those who receive and believe in Jesus become children of God.

Personal Application

Ask participants:

1. What truth from today's lesson spoke to you most?
2. How does the reality of eternity affect your daily choices?
3. Is there someone in your life who needs to hear the Gospel?
4. What action will you take this week because of what you learned today?

Weekly Challenge

This week:

- ✓ Spend five minutes each day thanking God for the gift of eternal life.
- ✓ Read Luke 16 and Revelation 21 again.
- ✓ Pray for three people who need to know Jesus.
- ✓ Share your faith story or the message of salvation with one person.
- ✓ Evaluate one area of your life from an eternal perspective.

Accountability Question for Next Meeting

Ask: "How did the reality of eternity influence your decisions this week, and who did you pray for or share the Gospel with?"

Wrap-Up Summary

Four Life-Changing Truths

1. **Life continues after physical death.**
2. **Heaven and hell are real places.**
3. **Eternity is permanent.**
4. **Jesus Christ is God's only provision for eternal life.**

Memory Verses

John 5:24

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

Revelation 21:8

“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Big Idea: The most important preparation for eternity is not where you will live on earth, but where you will spend forever. God lovingly offers eternal life through Jesus Christ to all who believe in Him.