CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Why We Believe

Lesson 8: Only Two Eternal Destinations: Heaven or Hell

About This Lesson

Many young people are focused on living life to its fullest now and don't stop to think about eternity. They feel invincible and think they don't have to deal with eternity until they are old. None of us are promised tomorrow, and everyone will spend eternity somewhere—heaven or hell.

Key Takeaway: The time to prepare for eternity is NOW!

Key Verse: Luke 10:20, *"Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."*

Teaching Outline:

I. THERE ARE 2 SPIRITUAL KINGDOMS

Luke 10:17–20 *Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." [18] And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. [19] Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. [20] Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."*

A. The Kingdom of Light – This is the Kingdom of Jesus! Everyone who is a part of this Kingdom has power, has authority to use the name of Jesus, has promises from God, has eternal life, and will spend eternity in Heaven.

B. The Kingdom of Darkness – This is the Kingdom of Satan. The deceiver. The father of lies. The author of sin, sickness, destruction, and death. When Jesus died on the cross and got up out of the grave- He was completely stripped of

all power. He and everyone who follows after Him, believing His lies, will spend eternity in Hell.

II. HELL IS A REAL PLACE, AND YOU DON'T WANT TO GO THERE!

Matthew 25:41–46 *"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: [42] for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; [43] I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' [44] Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' [45] Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do [it] to one of the least of these, you did not do [it] to Me.' [46] And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

A. Hell is eternal judgment (separating the sheep from the goats)

B. Hell is eternal separation from Jesus.

C. Hell is cursed, a place of fire, eternal punishment.

D. Hell is prepared for the devil and his angel followers.

III. HEAVEN IS WHERE YOU WANT TO GO!

A. Heaven is the eternal dwelling place of the almighty God.

Matthew 6:9–13 *…Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. [10] Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. [11] Give us this day our daily bread. [12] And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. [13] And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

B. Heaven is a kingdom.

Matthew 4:17 *…Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

1. Jesus preached this. This is what we need to preach today! Jesus is coming again soon! Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

C. Heaven is a reward for believers in Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:3–5 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, [5] who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Revelation 22:1–7 *"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. [2] In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. [3] And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. [4] They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. [5] There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. [6] Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. [7] "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."*

III. HEAVEN IS WHERE YOU WANT TO GO!

2 Timothy 4:1–5 (NASB) *I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: [2] preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. [3] For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, [4] and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. [5] But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

A. Jesus is the judge! Everyone will stand before Him.

B. We are to preach the Word! If a minister doesn't preach the Word—you don't need to follow them. It's essential for every believer to go to a church where the preacher preaches the Word!

C. All doctrine has to come from the Bible! We follow the Bible!

Bottom Line:

You will stand before Jesus one day and give an account whether you accepted His gift of salvation. Say "yes" to Jesus NOW.

Small Group Time:

1. Most young people feel invincible.
    - What have you heard other young people say about eternity?
    - Why do you think it is important for young people to think about where they will spend eternity?

2. Revelation 19:10 says, "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." This means that when you share your testimony, you share about what Jesus has done, and it will prophesy or give power for someone else to experience the same thing! Leader, share your testimony of how you came to know Jesus. Then, ask some of the students to share their testimony.
    - Who can you share your testimony with this week, and help them choose heaven as their eternal destination?

Declaration:

"There are two eternal destinations, and I choose heaven. I want to help as many people as I can choose heaven also!"

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** Which eternal destination do you choose, and why?
- **Pray:** Ask God to give you opportunities this week to share with people why you chose heaven as your eternal destination.
- **Read:** Read these verses and contemplate what the Holy Spirit is speaking to you through: John 10:28–30 and 17:3; and Luke 14:16–23. If the Holy Spirit puts someone in your thoughts, reach out to that person and share your testimony.
- **Live It:** Look online for Lee Strobel's 2022 movie, "The Case for Heaven" (1:49:00). Watch it with some of your friends and discuss it.

- **Create:** Take the 8 lesson titles from this "Why We Believe" series and make a presentation, piece of artwork, poem, song, blog, or meme that declares what you believe. Post your creation and share it with others through social media or with others in your youth group.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What song describes your day today, and why?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Play the music video or sing together the song "I Can Only Imagine." Let the young people share their impressions of what they imagine it would be like to be in God's presence in all His glory.

Opening Affirmation: "Today, I will be taught the Word of God. My mind is alert, my heart is receptive, and I will never be the same. I am about to receive the incorruptible, indestructible, ever-living seed of the Word of God. I will never be the same—never, never, never. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Giving Time: 1 Timothy 6:7 *For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*

This verse reminds us that our money and things don't go with us into eternity. By giving to the Lord's work, we actually send our money ahead to work and bring people to choose an eternity with Jesus.

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: Lead a Bible Sword Drill with verses about eternal life. Have each person in the group hold up a Bible. When you give the reference, everyone recites it back to you. Give the signal, and they try to be the first to find the verse. When they find the verse, they read it.

References: Romans 6:23, John 3:36, Galatians 6:8, John 4:14, 1 Timothy 1:16, Romans 5:21, 1 John 5:20, Romans 6:22, Jude 20–21, 1 John 2:25, John 17:3, Titus 1:2, and 1 Timothy 6:12

- What verse stood out to you about eternal life? Why did that impact you?

Biblical Worldview: Many people don't believe in life after death, or choose not to think about it. Many young people choose to ignore God and do not make plans for eternity. Encourage the youth group that they have the answer book to life—the Bible—and they should share the answers! The Bible clearly shows that knowing Jesus as your Savior is how you go to heaven and rejecting Jesus is how you go to hell. When the youth know they have eternal life with God right now and an eternity in heaven, they should share that joy with others and help them accept God's invitation to a forever feast with Him in heaven.

Outreach/Missions: Many cultures and religions have different views of life after death. Some believe in reincarnation, where you keep coming back to earth, and based on how you lived your previous life, your new life is better or worse than your last life.