

First Century Fellowship

Lesson: Just What Do You Mean by HELL?

Summarized Content:

- Hell is used 55 times in the Bible.
- Hell is translated into 4 different meanings related to 3 different places: Tartarus (Bottomless Pit), Gehenna (Lake of Fire), and Sheol (Old Testament) or Hades (New Testament) both refer to death or the grave.
- The wages of sin is death, but God enables us to avoid a second death through our humility and repentance, His grace, and our obedience to Him and His laws.
- We do not go to heaven or hell when we die. We all go to the grave (Sheol/Hades) until He resurrects us in either the 1st or 2nd resurrection unless we haven't yet died.

Scriptures:

- **John 10:26-30**
- **1 Cor. 15:55 (Sheol/Hades)**
- **Rev. 6:8 (Sheol/Hades)**
- **2 Peter 2:4 (Tartarus)**
- **Rev. 20:1-3 (Tartarus)**
- **Matt. 8:28-34 (Gehenna)**
- **Rev. 20:7-10 (Gehenna)**

Activities:

Exploring God's Word:

- Show children artist's pictures of hell. Note differences and similarities of their images. Ask what children think they know about hell.
- Use a white board to explain the 3 meanings (4 different words) of the word "hell" in the Bible (see summarized content above). Cut out the word cards and attach magnets to them to help children to complete a word web on the white board. Encourage them to write the same words on their own word webs. Ask children to read the scriptures out loud as you complete this activity as a group.

- Use the sequencing cards and the scriptures above to help students understand the more about what happens when you die, when the resurrections occur, and how God uses the three different locations of hell. Use children to hold the sequencing cards and stand in order. Make a second set of sequencing cards and have children sequence the events in teams as a race to check for understanding.

Understanding God's Word (choose from the activities below):



Play the Truth or Myth about Hell Game: Print and laminate the game boards ahead of time. Divide the group into pairs. Each pair should have one Truth or Myth Game Board and a dry erase marker. Ask each pair to read each statement to their selves and circle the answer they believe to be correct. Now ask each pair to decide how sure they are of their answers by placing a number between 1 (lowest confidence) and 5 (highest confidence) in each box. Explain that the gold boxes are worth double points, so they should choose a number between 5 and 10 for those boxes. Go over the answers with the group and have the children add up their points to find the winners.



Complete a Crossword Puzzle about Hell: Have children work in pairs to complete the crossword puzzle about hell to help them learn the related vocabulary meanings.



Illustrate the Different Meanings of Hell on the Word Web: Ask children to illustrate the different meanings of hell next to the appropriate areas on their Hell Word Webs completed during the earlier Exploring God's Word



Write a Letter/Practice Explaining to a Friend: Have children partner up and either write a letter or explain out loud to each other how they would explain to a friend what happens when someone dies.



When You Die Truths & Myths: Create truth and myth cards about events related to death and what happens afterwards. Have children sort the cards into the truth or myth categories. Use the cards to create a board game or Jeopardy. Play the game occasionally for review.



Hell Tri-Fold: Create a Hell tri-fold or peek-a-boo fold to illustrate the three names and meanings of Hell. Fold a red piece of paper in half (hamburger fold). Place: What is Hell? at the top. Cut three tabs across half of the paper to the fold so that the flaps open to reveal the inside. On the flaps, write each of the three names of Hell: Sheol/Hades, Tatarus, and Gehenna. On the inside, illustrate the matching location and meaning of Hell as well as one scripture that references that part of Hell. Have children quiz their parents.