

Judgement (Leaders' notes)

- 1) In recent news, a mass of people were found dead in a delivery truck in England. How would you feel if those people smugglers are brought before the courts and found not guilty on the basis of inadmissible evidence (not accepted as valid)? or worse, if they paid off the judge and were declared innocent? Why?
- 2) How do you feel when you hear the word eternal judgment? Discuss.

The Holiness of God

Read Isaiah 6:1-6 – Isaiah's commissioning from God

- 1) Describe what is taking place in this chapter.
- 2) Why do the Seraphim cover their faces and feet? **Read** Exodus 33:18-20 and Exodus 3:1-5 to help your thinking.
- 3) What do the Seraphim declare about God?
- 4) What do we learn about God's character? **Answer** – *He is perfectly holy, righteous, good and just. He is to be praised and feared/revered.*
- 5) Do you think God can ignore sin and continue to be holy? Why/Why not? **Answer** – *No. He would cease to be perfectly holy. To overlook wrongdoing is wrong in and of itself.*
- 6) What would this mean for us if we found ourselves in the presence of God without Jesus?

The condition of man

Read Isaiah 6:1-7. This time, focus on Isaiah's response.

- 1) How does Isaiah respond to being in the presence of God and why?
- 2) What do the Seraphim do to "Save" him? **Answer** - *Burning coal from the altar - This should remind us of Jesus – The altar upon which he died (The cross) to make us perfect and holy.*
- 3) What do we learn about the condition of humanity and our state before God?

To consider

- 1) What would it mean for the Cross of Christ if God were not to judge sin? **Answer** - *There would have been no point in Jesus dying on the cross. It would have been done in vain.*
- 2) Can the gospel exist without judgement?

Read Revelation 20:11-15

- 1) What appears to be taking place here?
- 2) Do Christians appear to escape judgement in this chapter? **Answer** - No
- 3) Where is the Christians hope in this passage? **Answer** - *In the Book of Life.*
- 4) How do our names get written in the Book of Life? **Answer** – *Through trusting in Jesus' death.*
- 5) If we are all going to be judged, how should we live our lives from here on and why? Micah 6:8

Note: We do good not to be saved, but because we are saved.

Read Revelation 21:1-8

- 1) What is taking place here?
- 2) What will this new heaven and earth be like?
- 3) What would happen if the unrepentant were admitted into heaven? **Answer** - *It would cease to be perfect.*
- 4) What are the consequences for Christianity if there is no judgement of sin? **Answer** –
 - *Jesus' death is pointless*
 - *God becomes unholy*
 - *The New Heaven and New Earth cease to be perfect*
 - *We can live however we want*
 - *Evil goes unpunished*
 - *The trinity is placed in conflict – Jesus on the cross versus God who ignores sin*
 - *Jesus becomes a liar - "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the father except through me" not true if sin goes unpunished.*

Read Hebrews 4:16 and pray

Lord God, we trust in your goodness even when we don't understand. We trust in your holiness and righteousness and trust in your perfect plan for redemption. We thank you for your Son, Jesus, and thank you for divine judgement. We pray for those who do not know Jesus. May you soften their hearts and open their ears and minds to the Gospel. We pray this in and only through your Son's name.

Amen