

LEAD SHEET

Spiritual Opposites - WK. 2

HEAVEN & HELL

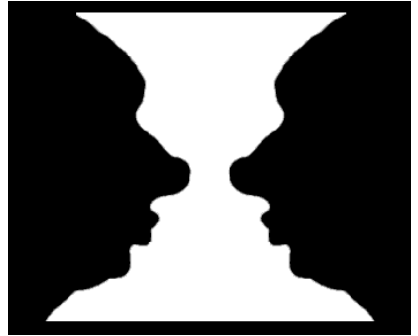
MARCH 13, 2016

**THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:
DIALOGUE WITH GOD**

If you want to know God better, talk to Him!

GETTING STARTED

- Have the students look at this picture on their paper. Ask the students how many of them saw a white vase. Next ask how many of them saw silhouettes of two men looking at each other?



- Have them look at the second image and ask the them how many saw a young woman looking over her shoulder? How many of them saw the old woman? Take a few minutes to point out each of the four images.



Discussion Questions:

1. How many of you could easily see both pictures on the handouts?
2. Optical illusions can be fun, how can this exercise be applied to our spiritual lives?
3. When it comes to spiritual realms, is there more there than meets the eye?

DIGGING IN

Today we're talking about the reality of Heaven and hell. The Bible has a lot to say about both, and we're going to take a real Scriptural approach to this study. It's important that you understand from the beginning that your eternity is determined by your decisions.

HEAVEN

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you imagine when you think of Heaven?
2. How realistic do you think your image of Heaven is?

Much of the popular belief does not align with the Scripture: These are some popular views of Heaven/
Heaven-like destinations

- Islam calls it Paradise
- Eastern faiths favor reincarnation
- Mormons believe there are levels of Heaven
- New Age faiths believe we are absorbed into nature, etc.
- Atheists, Humanists, etc. don't believe in any kind of afterlife

The Bible paints a very different picture. What does the Bible say about Heaven?

(Have students read Scriptures and discover together what those Scriptures are saying.)

Heaven...

- It's a real place (Matthew 3:16; Acts 22:6; Colossians 1:20)
- God the Father is there (Matthew 3:17, 5:16, Rev. 21:2)
- Christ is there (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:16; Hebrews 1:3, 9:24)
- It's where Christians belong (Philippians 3:20)
- It's here now (Matthew's "Kingdom of Heaven" 5:19, 7:21, 18:4)

This last point can be confusing because many times we think of Heaven in the future tense. While our dwelling in the place of Heaven resides in the future, the reign of Heaven is already present. It was ushered in by Jesus, present in the Church, and will be totally fulfilled in Heaven.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you realize new about Heaven?
2. Did anything surprise you?
3. Are there questions you still have? (*Field questions as you're able. Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know," and discover the answer together.*)

Heaven is used about 225 in the New Testament, while hell is mentioned approximately 14 times. Just like angels and demons, Heaven is much more prevalent, and is therefore our focus.

HELL

Although it is not our focus, let's briefly discuss hell.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think of when you think of hell?
2. How close do you think your thoughts are to reality?

There are far fewer Scriptural mentions of hell than there are of Heaven, but there are just as many differing opinions on what hell might be like.

- Some believe hell isn't real at all (Atheist, Humanists, etc.)
- Some believe it's real but temporary (you can do your time and eventually be saved)
- Some believe it's real but annihilates people all together—they cease to exist This is not the picture of hell we get in Scripture

Hell...

- It's a real place (Matthew 5:30; Luke 12:5; 2 Peter 2:4)
- There is association with fire and torment (Mark 9:43; Revelation 14:11; Luke 16:23)
- It is eternal, not temporary (Revelation 20:10; Mark 9:48)

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you learn new about hell?
2. Did anything surprise you?
3. Are there questions you still have? (*Field questions as you're able. Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know," and discover the answer together.*)

Heaven and hell are both real places, they are eternal, and it is our choices in life—specifically our choice of whether or not to accept Jesus—that determines our destiny. It is not a game, it's a reality.

MAKING IT REAL

One of the Scriptures we read was Philippians 3:20, which says that we belong in Heaven. I really believe that! I want you to understand that there's a home for you in Heaven, with God, for eternity, so we're going to try something a little different:

Read Revelation 21:1-22:7

(Read this passage in its entirety. Read it as creatively as you can. Have students close their eyes and imagine what you are reading. Tell them to get comfortable and allow their mind to imagine what you're describing. This will take several minutes, but hopefully it will help students understand that their heavenly home is real and awaits them if they give themselves to Jesus.)

Discussion Question:

1. In view of Heaven and hell, how should we live?

(Read Revelation 2:10b)

If we follow after Jesus, we have a reward that awaits us. That's something to be excited about!

CLOSING PRAYER

#CRAZYFORCHRIST