

PERSPECTIVES

on SHARING HOPE

ENDGAME

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.
(Matthew 7:13-14)

1. The 2 paths

Few & Many

What People say and what Jesus says are different.

Life & Destruction

LIFE: spiritual, eternal, heaven.

DESTRUCTION: spiritual death, eternal, fire.

2. The 2 paths of those who follow Jesus

Share & Deny

SHARE: We need to share with others that Jesus is the gate. John 10:9

DENY: If we deny others the hope of Christ we deny Christ.

Matthew 10:33

3. Our one mission

The ‘Endgame’ compels us to accomplish the mission.

Our ‘Endgame’ is hearing Jesus say: “Well done Good and Faithful Servant”.

MESSAGE BASED SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

ENDGAME

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. (Matthew 7:13-14)

1. The idea of ‘two paths’ is common in the Bible (Deut 30:19; Amos 5:14; Psalm 1; Prov 4:18-19, etc.). Why do you think this idea was so popular for biblical writers?
2. How does John 10:9 help you understand Matthew 7:13-14?
3. Jesus says there are “few” that enter through the narrow gate. Why do you think this is at odds with the world’s understanding of heaven and hell?
4. We do not like hearing about ‘destruction’ or ‘hell’. Even though Jesus laments over the lost people in Jerusalem (cf., Matt 23:37), he speaks about hell more than any other biblical figure.
 - Why was this topic so important to a man who loved others so deeply?
 - Why do you think this topic has become so unimportant to many Christians?
5. Sometimes the message about hell has been used to scare people into heaven. What is the difference between warning people about the outcome of not believing in Jesus and using the information to frighten people into faith?
6. In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus tells us that the gate to heaven is narrow and the road to heaven is a tight squeeze. How does this underscore just how desperate and fallen humanity is? How does this touch your heart?
7. Peter tells Christians to always have an answer for the hope that is within them (1Pet 3:15). Many people start to lose their concentration after just a few minutes of listening. Try to share your faith-story with your group in less than five minutes and put the most important information in the first 30 seconds. Remember, practice makes perfect!
8. Many people focus on being moral but Jesus focused on a mission that was all about saving people from destruction (cf., Lk 19:10)! How can we become more concerned about the mission of Jesus in our daily affairs?
9. When you think about your ‘endgame,’ you can be certain that you will be saved from destruction if your faith is in what Jesus did for you rather than your own good works and morality. What is not certain is whether Jesus will say: “Well done good and faithful servant.” Name one thing that you will do differently this week to walk in the mission of Jesus (and thus by the mission of The Journey Church).