

## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

# STUMPED

FAITH QUESTIONS YOU STRUGGLE TO ANSWER

### WEEK 4: SEPT 10-16

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Opening Prayer: Jesus, you show us every day what it means to live with grace and hope. Help us not only believe in these things, but help us live those things. Help us be creators of hope for others, just as you create hope for us. Amen.

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### TITLE: DOES GOD SEND PEOPLE TO HELL?

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31

19 "There was a certain rich man who clothed himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted luxuriously every day. 20 At his gate lay a certain poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Instead, dogs would come and lick his sores.

22 "The poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 While being tormented in the place of the dead, he looked up and saw Abraham at a distance with Lazarus at his side. 24 He shouted, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I'm suffering in this flame.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received good things, whereas Lazarus received terrible things. Now Lazarus is being comforted and you are in great pain. 26 Moreover, a great crevasse has been fixed between us and you. Those who wish to cross over from here to you cannot. Neither can anyone cross from there to us.'

27 "The rich man said, 'Then I beg you, Father, send Lazarus to my father's house. 28 I have five brothers. He needs to warn them so that they don't come to this place of agony.' 29 Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets. They must listen to them.' 30 The rich man said, 'No, Father Abraham! But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will change their hearts and lives.' 31 Abraham said, 'If they don't listen to Moses and the Prophets, then neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.'"

### GETTING STARTED

- Welcome each other.
- Inquire as to anyone who is missing. Is follow-up needed?



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## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- There are many different views of what hell is. Share as a group some of the different imagery or ideas of hell that you have heard.
- Thinking back to the sermon, how has the understanding of hell evolved throughout Scripture and culture? What impact does this have on your own understanding of this topic?
- Re-read the Scripture for this week. This is a parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man. Why does it matter that the Rich Man does not have a change of heart, even in death? How does he create his own reality?
- There is a lot of mystery to how Jesus works in our lives, both on earth and in the life beyond. What do you think about the idea that Jesus could provide hope even in a hopeless place like hell? What does the mysterious nature of this idea teach us about our faith and experiences with God?
- Jesus can meet us in our own places of hell (where we experience suffering and disconnection). Where do you need Jesus to meet you in this moment? What could hope look like in this situation?
- We are invited to both experience and create hope through Jesus. What does that mean in your life now, and even in the week ahead?

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY- "I LOVE MY CITY"

Is your small group looking for a way to GIVE BACK this fall? I Love My City is just for you! St. Lukers from the North campus, Midtown and online communities will work together on September 23 and 24 to serve in our communities and make a difference. We have projects on-site and at various locations around our city. We'll be serving inside and outdoors. We'll bundle diapers, help at local food pantries, beautify our neighborhoods and schools and much more. Whether you are 3 or 93, we need your small group to join alongside hundreds of St. Lukers for this Day of Service to our communities.

Check out the service project ideas, order a Tshirt, and roll up your sleeves. This day is going to make an IMPACT! Visit [stlukesumc.com/ilovemycity](http://stlukesumc.com/ilovemycity).

## PRAYER REQUESTS