

WHY JUDGMENT DAY MATTERS!



THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

Is there a real judgment day, and what difference should it make in my life?

BIG IDEA

Judgment Day does not determine salvation for believers, but rather it evaluates us on how faithfully we served Christ. On Judgment Day non-believers will have to answer for their rejection of Christ.

SCRIPTURE USED

Revelation 20:11-15 (What): *And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books.*

John 5:26-27; 2 Corinthians 5:10 (Who): *The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son. And he has given him authority to judge everyone because he is the Son of Man.*

For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

Matthew 24:36-39 (When): *However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.*

Matthew 25:31-33 (Where): *But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.*

Romans 2:5-8 (Why): *But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will judge everyone according to what they have done. He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness.*

OPENER

For the opener you will need:

- A copy of the book *They Broke the Law—You Be the Judge: True Cases of Teen Crime* (Note: If you are unable to obtain a copy of this book, select a few cases that will appeal to teenagers from the Reader's Digest's "You Be the Judge" website.)

Skim the book, *They Broke the Law—You Be the Judge: True Cases of Teen Crime*, and select a few of the cases that you can role-play with your students. Ask a volunteer to be "on trial," request another volunteer that can be "the judge" and make the rest of the students the jury. As time allows do 2-3 scenarios and switch out students who are on trial, the judge or members of the jury. After each "verdict" ask one student to share why they "ruled" the way that they did.

TRANSITION

ASK

- **What is the first thing that comes to your mind if I say "Judgment Day"?** (Leaders, it can be a movie, a book, or a TV show. So, encourage kids to be honest and just say the first thing that pops into their minds whether it is an emotion or an example, etc. If you have a place you can write some of the things said down, this is helpful. If not, just listen to the students for common themes and popular misconceptions.)
- **Why is it important to understand how to recognize truth—won't we just know it when we see it?**
- **Is Judgment Day a topic you often hear talked about in youth group or preached on? Why do you think that is?**
- **Why do Christians need to understand what the Bible has to say about Judgment Day?**