

# THE GREAT DIVORCE



THE GREAT DIVORCE PODCAST | Week 1

## Connect (5 to 10 minutes)

- Have you ever read any of CS Lewis's other works? If so, what were they and what do you remember of them?

## Context (30 to 40 minutes)

**Discuss the podcast and the chapters for this week. What particularly stood out to you from either the book or the recording?**

- What do you make of the title *The Great Divorce*?

## PREFACE

William Blake wrote *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* in the late 1700s. His basic framework was the notion that both good and evil are necessary elements for the world to keep spinning. Effectively, he argues that both Heaven and Hell are represented in this world, and it functions at its highest level when both are embraced. C.S. Lewis argues that this is the opposite of God's vision for the world.

- Do you think that true synergy is achieved in having both evil and good present? Why or why not?
- Why is it possible for Heaven and Hell to cohabitate, or conversely, why is it impossible to have both Heaven and Hell simultaneously?
- Why do you think that humans aim to blur the lines between what is good and what is evil? Do you see examples of this in your daily life?
- In the preface, Lewis claims that Evil can be undone, but it cannot "develop into good". What do you make of this phrase? Do you agree or disagree?
- What do you think of the idea of going back to the point of the error to correct a mistake? Can you fix errors without addressing the point of misstep?

## CHAPTER 1

- Do you believe that you are owed anything or deserve things in life? If so, what do you believe you are owed/deserve?
- Have you ever felt like the world is against you? How do you get out of this condition? Do you know someone like this?
- What do you think of the idea that there are different ways to choose Hell?

**Read Matthew 19:16-22.** In this passage Jesus talks to a young man and informs him that to receive eternal life, he must give up what he possesses. How do you interpret this passage considering CS Lewis's framework of neighbors and what we want in life?

- You might notice that the story says the young man walks away, but it doesn't say that he would never give up his possessions. Was salvation still possible for him even though we don't know the end of the story?

## CHAPTER 2

- Who's the worst neighbor you've ever had? Why is it easier to distance ourselves from each other? Why do we prefer that over being close to others?
- Have you ever considered eternity? How can you comprehend that?
- What do you have of value in this life and why does it have value?

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## Next Week

**Read Chapters 3 & 4 and/or listen to episodes 3 & 4 of the podcast.**

- What takeaways would you like to commit to this week?

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## Closing (5 minutes)

***God calls us into community by sharing our joys and concerns together in prayer and supporting one another in our walks with Christ. As we share testimony and stories of our lives, let us listen to where God is working within our community and how we can build each other up in Christian love.***

- Share joys and concerns with one another.
- Close in prayer, either by inviting a group member to pray or by using the prayer provided below.

### Closing Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, power, and glory forever. Amen.