

# THE GREAT DIVORCE



THE GREAT DIVORCE PODCAST | Week 3

## Connect (5 to 10 minutes)

- Spend some time discussing your week so far. What have been some exciting moments? What did you think of church this past weekend?

## 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?**

### CHAPTER 5

- We see the Fat Ghost interact with a man named Dick. It is said the Fat Ghost can't believe in a literal Heaven and Hell. What are some concepts of the story of God that you find difficult to believe? Have you found ways to reconcile this difficulty?
- The Fat Ghost was a bishop during his time on Earth. Do you find it odd that someone of a position of authority on Earth struggles to find his place in Heaven?
- What is something you used to believe but no longer believe anymore?
- Is there something that you struggle to stop believing in, even if it doesn't make sense to believe in it anymore?
- How do you couple the ideas of faith and intellect?
- Are there any modern examples of provocative information and ideas being sent out that you can think of? What good does this provide? What harm does it cause?
- In this chapter, this exchange happens: "I'm not sure that I've got the exact point you are trying to make," said the Ghost. "I am not trying to make any point," said the Spirit. "I am telling you to repent and believe." What do you make of this conversation?

**Read Matthew 5:1-12.** In this passage, Jesus preaches his famous sermon on the mount. He lists several types of people who are blessed amidst suffering or struggles. How do you contrast this message (namely the end that talks about being insulted) with the story of the ghost?

## CHAPTER 6

- What are your most prized possessions? What makes them valuable?
  - In this chapter, we see Ikey (the intelligent man from the bus), attempting to approach a tree. Why do you think he wants to do that?
  - Do you believe we can bring pieces of Heaven with us into Hell?
  - The concept of greed and selfishness is at play in the story of Ikey. He would rather try to benefit from these Apples in Hell, rather than stay in a place where they are abundant and free if only he is willing to give up what is necessary to have them. What do you believe is the root of this greed and selfishness? What is the key, in your opinion, to overcome this?
  - What do you believe that tree is supposed to represent?
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## Next Week

**Read Chapters 7 & 8 and/or listen to episodes 7 & 8 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.