

# THE GREAT DIVORCE



THE GREAT DIVORCE PODCAST | Week 4

## 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 7

- What have you experienced that lived up to your expectations? What didn't?
- What do you make of the Hard-Bitten Ghost?
- 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?
- Do you agree with any of the theories that the Hard-Bitten Ghost presents? If you don't agree with them, are there any claims that you can understand or empathize with?
- There is a claim in Chapter 7 that since "the people in charge" allow Hell to exist, it proves that both sides are controlled by the same people. What do you think of this claim?
- Do you know anyone in your life that is cynical? How does cynicism interact with our faith, our relationships, and our joy in life?
- The Hard Bitten-Ghost claims that if "the people in charge" truly cared about us, they wouldn't make us choose Heaven or Hell, but instead would create a system that adapts to us. What do you believe about the change that we must endure and the choices we must make to experience Heaven? Is this a good or bad thing that we must do this?

In *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis writes, "If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world." Do you feel fully satisfied in this world? If not, do you believe that you can be in Heaven? What will true satisfaction look like?

**Read Ephesians 4:22-32.** In this passage, Paul is teaching the church in Ephesus about how they must conduct themselves. Paul specifically is addressing a group of people who were torn between two worlds (the Christian/Jewish teachings and the Greek/Hellenistic teachings). The concept is to provide a framework for how to adapt to that situation. What lessons from this passage do you believe have a universal and timeless nature to them? How do they apply both to the context of *The Great Divorce* and to our time today?

## CHAPTER 8

- After his conversation with the Hard-Bitten Ghost, Lewis begins to feel depressed and anxious about the situation. What does this say about the interactions we have with others? How can we impact the lives of those around us through our relationships and conversations?
- Lewis begins to question God in this chapter. What good has come from a time where you questioned God?
- We see a Ghost who is fearful and embarrassed. She approached the mountain out of shame for the fact that she doesn't yet have a body like the Spirits. How do you see shame in our current culture today? How has this changed since when you were younger?
- How do you move from shame to acceptance about your missteps? What's the difference between being transparent of your failings and being proud of your failings?
- Can we truly be faithful without being honest with ourselves about who we are? Why or why not?
- What is the best way for you to encourage others who may be ashamed of themselves or their past?

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## Next Week

**Read Chapter 9 and/or listen to episodes 9, 10, 11 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.