

# THE GREAT DIVORCE



THE GREAT DIVORCE PODCAST | Week 5

## 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 9

- In Chapter 9, Lewis finds his Spirit guide, a mentor figure in the Scottish author, George MacDonald. In this setting, who would be your guide? A family member? A famous figure? A former mentor?
- Lewis asks MacDonald a lot of questions about Heaven. What questions would you want to ask God/a Spirit before you?
- How often do you think about the people you know that “might not go to heaven?” (From other religions, no religions, etc.) Do you believe God can provide grace to humans after death so that everyone has a chance at Heaven?
- What’s the closest you’ve come to experiencing Heaven? What about Hell?
- Discuss the concept that once in Heaven, all of your past agonies will be turned into glory. What do you make of this idea that your worst moments can be perceived through a lens of goodness?

**Read John 3:10-21.** In this passage, Jesus is teaching Nicodemus, a Pharisee, who is inquiring about the impact Jesus is making. Jesus explains that he came to redeem the world, but that it isn’t quite that simple. A choice would be presented for us to either choose or reject God and Heaven. Have you ever read the verses around the famous John 3:16? What do you make of this passage after reading verses around it to understand its full context?

- In this chapter, we see several different kinds of Ghosts, all flawed in some way or another. (Though, in fairness, aren’t we all?) Which story of a ghost resonated with you?

- George MacDonald says that many who return to The Grey Town would prefer to, “reign in Hell than serve in Heaven.” Do you believe that there are people who feel this way? How do you know?
  - In the podcast, Arthur and Forrest talk about how there are hobbies or things we start with enjoyment but then become a chore we dread. Some ghosts seem to have this same perspective where they can no longer see the joy of the life they once had. Do you have any experience with this kind of sentiment?
  - Do you know someone in your life who is a grumbler? How does this kind of grumbling restrict us from experiencing the joy of Heaven?
  - The Artist Ghost is aghast at the notion that there are no famous people in Heaven. What do you think of this idea that even the most well-renowned person is no more famous than the most run-of-the-mill, Average Joe in Heaven? Is there someone in Heaven you would like to meet? Does this framework change your perspective on them?
  - We often think about the legacies we leave, yet the guide for the Artist explains that our feats on Earth mean nothing in the grand scheme of it all. How do you reconcile the idea of leaving a legacy on Earth when it might not matter in the long run?
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## Next Week

**Read Chapters 10 and 11 and/or listen to episodes 12 & 13 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.