TALK IT OVER · PART ONE

The Gate

Read it: Luke 16:19–21

What you show off can hide what you ignore.

REAL LIFE

Everybody posts the highlight reel: the trip, the fit, the night out. The rich man had the original highlight reel, dressed in purple every day. What he missed was lying at his gate. Your gate might be the person who always eats alone, the friend who stopped texting back, or the guy who sleeps outside the store you walk past. God knew Lazarus by name. The rich man never bothered to learn it.

TALK IT OVER

1. What's the one thing you'd hate for people to find out isn't as good as it looks?
2. Who's at your gate: someone you see all the time but never really see?
3. Whose name have you never bothered to learn?

> *"People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."* **1 Samuel 16:7**

TRY IT THIS WEEK

Learn the name of one person you walk past every week. Then use it.

Carrying something heavy? Talk to someone you trust. In the U.S. you can call or text 988 any time, day or night.

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TALK IT OVER · PART TWO

The Crossing

Read it: Luke 16:22–26

Death is real, it is final, and being "a good person" isn't what decides where you go.

REAL LIFE

Young people die too: car wrecks, overdoses, cancer. At almost every funeral someone says, "He's in a better place," no matter who it was. The rich man's brothers probably said it too. Jesus told this story so nobody would have to guess. After death there's no waiting room and no second chance. But Jesus also tells us how to be ready.

TALK IT OVER

1. What do your friends actually think happens when you die? Where did they get that?
2. In the story, the rich man can still see, remember and feel. Does that change how you think about eternity?
3. If you died today, where would you spend eternity? How do you know?

> *"Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,"* **Hebrews 9:27**

TRY IT THIS WEEK

Read Luke 16:19–31 on your own. Write down one honest question and ask someone you trust.

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TALK IT OVER · PARTS THREE AND FOUR

The Five

Read it: Luke 16:27–31

Five minutes after you die, what will matter is where you spend eternity, and where the people closest to you will.

REAL LIFE

The rich man's first unselfish thought came too late to help his brothers. You still have time. Talking about Jesus with people you love can feel awkward. You don't want to sound preachy. You're afraid they'll ask something you can't answer. You're scared it'll make things weird. Start small and honest: "Can we talk about God sometime? For real." Jesus already rose from the dead. Your job is just to point to him.

TALK IT OVER

1. Who are your five: the people closest to you who may not know Jesus?
2. What's the real reason you haven't talked to them about it?
3. Jesus did rise from the dead. If that's true, what changes for you this week?

> *"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?"*
> **Romans 10:14**

TRY IT THIS WEEK

Write down your five. Pray for each one by name every day this week. Start one real conversation.

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THE GOOD NEWS

How to follow Jesus

Plainly, from the Bible

1. God made you and loves you.
He is also holy and just. He will not pretend sin doesn't matter.

2. Everyone has sinned.
"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) Being a good person can't fix it. *"The wages of sin is death."* (Romans 6:23)

3. Jesus paid for it.
Jesus, God's Son, died on the cross for your sin, was buried, and rose again on the third day. (1 Corinthians 15:3–4) God's justice required a penalty. His love provided a Savior.

4. He is the only way.
"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

5. Turn and trust.
Admit your sin, ask forgiveness, believe Jesus died and rose for you, and follow him as Lord. *"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."* (Romans 10:9) *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins."* (1 John 1:9)

A PRAYER YOU CAN PRAY, IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Jesus, I know I've sinned, and I can't fix it myself. I believe you died for me and rose again. Please forgive me. I turn from my sin and trust you. Be my Lord, and help me follow you. Amen.

What's next: tell someone you trust, get a Bible and start with the Gospel of Luke, find a church, and think about your five.

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ABOUT THE STORY

Who's who

Say it like this

The rich man: Jesus never gives his name. He tells the story.

Lazarus *(LAZ-uh-rus)*: the beggar at the gate. His name means "God helps." He is not the Lazarus of Bethany whom Jesus raised in John 11.

Abraham *(AY-bruh-ham)*: the father of the Jewish people and a picture of welcome for everyone who trusts God.

The five brothers: still alive, still at the table, still walking past the gate.

Hades *(HAY-deez)*: the place of the dead where the rich man is in torment.

A note on the story. Jesus told this story in Luke 16:19–31 to teach what is true about life, death and eternity. The rich man telling the story, the faces, the feast, the funeral, and the modern ending are storytelling choices. Every word in quotation marks with a Bible reference comes straight from Scripture (NIV).

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FOR YOUTH LEADERS

Using this story with a group

One session or three

TWO WAYS TO USE IT

1. **One session:** read the whole story together (about 15 minutes), then use Talk It Over: The Five.
2. **Three sessions:** one part per week with the three Talk It Over pages.

TALKING ABOUT HELL

Don't soften what Jesus said, and don't use it to scare. Jesus told this story to warn people he loved. Even in Hades, Abraham calls the rich man "son." Be honest that hell is personal, painful and permanent, and just as clear that it is preventable.

WHEN A STUDENT WANTS TO FOLLOW JESUS

Slow down. Walk through How to Follow Jesus together, pray with them, and help them tell a parent, guardian or another trusted adult, and your pastor.

GRIEF AND SAFETY

Some students have lost someone. Don't guess about any person's eternity; point to the God who is just and kind. If a student shares that they are being harmed, harming themselves or thinking about suicide, stay with them, involve a trusted adult and your church's safety plan right away, and make sure they know they can call or text 988.

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GO DEEPER

The message behind the story

From a sermon series by Pastor Rick Melick

Watch the message

"Eternity Reveals What Life Conceals," Week 4 of See You on the Other Side

youtube.com › Week 4 ›

Read the chapter

The same message as a chapter in the free book

capitolcitystore.com/otherside ›

All eight messages

Heaven, hell and the life to come, with a Study Book for groups

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Free to read and share. Send it to one of your five.