

# The Apostles' **CREED**

**“From whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead”**

## **Getting Started**

Answer one of the following questions

Have you ever had to stand before a judge? If you're brave enough tell that story.

Have you ever worked as a referee or an umpire or in any other job where you have to make quick judgements? What was that like?

Do you know someone who you would consider “judgey?” Without giving names describe that person to the group.

## **Going Deeper**

What main thought or idea or challenge did you take away from the message on Sunday?

Read [Matthew 25:31-34](#) and discuss what these verses reveal about the character of God

This part of the Apostles Creed reveals two aspects of the character of God that most people don't like. God judges. God separates. Why do you think many people view these qualities as so negative?

If you were charged with defending God's behavior on these two counts, how would you defend Him?

[Mark 9:47-48](#) If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where "their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched."

The freedom to choose is one of our highest values. It's considered an unalienable right. Why do you think this value is so important to us?

The freedom of choice is also important to God. Take a moment to read these verses that prove that God allows each person to choose.

[Joshua 24:15](#), [James 4:4](#), [1 Peter 4:3](#)

If there is a God who separates and that same God judges, then we must conclude that there is a heaven and a hell. Read [Matthew 18:12-14](#) and discuss the heart of God for people who are far from him.

Take a moment to discuss the following idea:

God doesn't want anyone to perish, but he values choice so much that he allows each person to choose. God gives people the option and some people will choose to run away from him their whole lives. Hell is simply God allowing people to get what they have always wanted. They have always wanted to be away from God and He finally gives them what they've wanted.

If there is a hell then how can we make sure we avoid it. Jesus answers that question for us in [Matthew 25:34-46](#).

Read those verses and discuss the characteristics of those people who God considers his children.

(On first glance it looks like the way to get to heaven is to work our way there.

Read [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) to get more insight into that question)

If there will come a time when everyone will be judged for our actions then it is our job to point them in the right direction. Our purpose is to show the love of God in our words and actions. What are some ways we can do that with the people around us?

