



## Your Best Isn't Good Enough | March 30, 2016

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

Many of us spend our whole lives trying harder, getting better, and wondering if we have been good enough.

The reality is your best is just not good enough...and this is GOOD news! It's the best news. It's the Gospel.

#### Key Verse

**2 Peter 3:9 (MSG)**

*God isn't late with his promise as some measure lateness. He is restraining himself on account of you, holding back the End because he doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change.*

#### Discussion

We worry about what will happen to us when we die and we can't help ourselves when we wonder if we have done enough to make the final cut. Heaven and Hell may not be on our minds all the time, but they are enough of a part of our thoughts that we have some confusion around what we believe and what we have been told.

1. What are some examples of the pictures of Heaven and Hell that you have seen, believed, or even laughed about?
2. Share some of your thoughts about Heaven and Hell, who goes where, and why.

The good news is that our fate is not measured by how good we are. Our faith is not measured by our church attendance, our monthly donations, or how often we helped the poor and needy. You could argue that those things lead to a more robust and rich life while here on earth, but they are not prerequisites for Heaven or Hell.

3. What types of things do you think you would put on the list of reasons you are good enough?
4. What types of things do you think you would put on the list of things that disqualify someone from Heaven or things that send people to Hell?

The realization that we all have sinned and fallen short (Romans 3:23) puts us all on the same train headed to Hell. However, the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus (Romans 6:23). Our God made it simple. He erased the report card mentality by having Jesus pay for us all. All we need to do is believe in our hearts and say so with our mouths and the final destination on our train ticket changes immediately (Romans 10:9-11).

5. Do you believe that anyone can go to Heaven? Based on the verses included above, who would be excluded?

#### What's Next?

If you study the theology of Hell, you find that even very intellectual theologians cannot land on the same understanding, description, and its inhabitants. However, that pursuit may be fruitless when you consider the entire story of God interacting with and redeeming his people. Instead of having the perspective that God sends people to Hell, it seems much more feasible that God saves people from it. Do you have questions about faith that hold you back from believing Jesus died for your sins? If you believe Jesus died for your sins and have said so, what things keep you bogged down in your pursuit of being good enough? Who in your life might need to hear a different perspective on God's approach to Hell?