

Upcoming Judgment

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 

Lesson 12**Focus:**

The whole world
will face judgment
one day.

Lesson 12**Bible Basis:**

Revelation
11:15-18; 19:11, 13,
15-16;
20:11-15

Lesson 12**Memory Verse:**

He will judge the world in
righteousness and the peoples in
his faithfulness. —Psalm 96:13b

Students will begin to think about the ins and outs of judgment.

Materials:

- Internet access
- Whiteboard and markers or screen-shared document

As students enter, ask them to think about all the places that judgment comes up in their lives. When they think of an idea, allow them to write it on the whiteboard. If your class is meeting online, you can ask them to share as you type the items into a screen-shared document.

The list could include things like the judge in a courtroom, judging someone's appearance, sports officials, grades in school, etc. You can prompt them by asking about situations where they have the opportunity to judge someone/something or about situations where they are/or feel judged by others.

Judgment comes up in our world often and in lots of different ways! Especially in the last few years, our nation has become increasingly divided over politics and pandemic-related policies. It can be easy to judge others with whom we disagree, especially when we don't have all the information about their situations or understand where they're coming from.

- **What are some examples of judgment you've seen in the world recently?** (Accept all reasonable answers.)
- **Have you judged others this year? What made it so easy to judge? Respectfully share an example.** (Accept all reasonable and respectful answers.)

Our world is full of different kinds of judgment. Some of it is righteous judgment, like a criminal being sentenced for his crime, and some of it is wrong judgment, like a child being left out because his friends judge his clothes. The most important judge, though, is God. He can always be relied on to be a righteous judge. Let's dig into the Bible to see what it has to say about God's judgment.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Upcoming Judgment

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STEP 4 

Lesson 12**Focus:**

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15-16;
20:11-15

Lesson 12**Memory Verse:**

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his faithfulness. —Psalm 96:13b

Materials:

- Internet access
- Student cellphones with flashlights OR Battery-powered tea candles (1 per student)

Learning about God's coming judgment can seem scary. It might even make us feel anxiety over those we know who don't believe that Jesus came into the world and died on the cross to save them from God's righteous judgment and who haven't accepted salvation through baptism into Him. As Christians, we are called to pray for and share our faith with those who don't know Jesus. This can seem like an overwhelming task.

- **What are some things that worry you about sharing the Good News of Jesus with those who don't know Him?** (Answers might include: What if I do it wrong and turn them off to faith? What if they laugh at me? What if I come off as self-righteous or judgmental?)

It's important for us to remember that as we share the news of God's righteous judgment and Jesus' salvation with others, it is the Holy Spirit—not us—who works in their hearts. Usually, someone's journey to Jesus is long and includes many different influences. You've probably influenced someone's journey without even realizing it already!

Your part in God's work of saving someone from judgment might be any number of things. Maybe it's a random conversation you have, maybe it's someone seeing you pray before you eat lunch at school, maybe it's someone noticing you resisting peer pressure. Sometimes it will be a conversation that you've planned, prayed about, and scheduled, but sometimes God will use you just by your example of living your Christian life.

Have students get their phones ready. Or, you can hand out a tea light (switched off) to students; ask your students to leave lights off until the appointed time. Turn out the lights in your room. Make the room as dark as possible.

Hell is often described as the absence of God. People on earth who don't know Jesus can feel like they're walking around in the dark. Spend some time in silent prayer, asking God to help you see the places where He is asking you to be a light to someone who doesn't know Him. Ask God to show you how you can be an example for Him in your daily life. When

you're finished, light your candle.

When everyone is finished praying and has lit their candle or turned on their cellphone flashlight, end in a group prayer, praying for those who don't know Jesus. End by encouraging your teens to reach out to someone who doesn't know Jesus and remind them that they can have an eternal impact on a person, through the Holy Spirit. Encourage them to keep their tea light visible where it will remind them to be a light to someone, or to pray for someone who does not know Jesus.

Close in prayer.

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