



GRACE GROUP LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE

(Week of November 16th)

NOT INTERESTED - PUNISHMENT

LAST WEEK'S ACTION STEP

Spend some time soberly considering these questions: Do I believe Hell is real? Does my life reflect what I believe? How do I move forward based on what I say I believe?

ICEBREAKER

Would you rather have every traffic light turn green or always have the best parking spot?

BOTTOM LINE

God's punishment of wickedness proves His goodness

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 20:16-18, Nahum 1:2-3

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 9:5	Ecclesiastes 5:8
Romans 12:19	Proverbs 20:22
Ezekiel 18:20	Genesis 4:10-12

RESOURCES

Read this [article](#) from The Bible Project titled "Judgement or Cruelty? Conquering the Promised Land."

Watch this [video](#) from Illustrated Theology on God's punishment and patience.

GRACE EVENTS

<https://www.gracefellowship.cc/events/>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. What caricatures of God do people often hold? (*Leaders think: angry old man, cosmic cop, Santa Claus, a genie, etc.*) What parts of God's character might those caricatures distort or ignore?
3. Why do you feel like people struggle to talk about God's punishment?
4. What can happen to our faith when we reject everything that makes us uncomfortable about God?
5. Read **Nahum 1:2-3**. How do you see both justice and patience in these verses?
6. Read **Ezekiel 18:21-23, 30-32**. How should these passages shape our view on God's grace and justice?
7. Why is it important that God doesn't just forgive without dealing with sin? What would be lost about God's character if he didn't?
8. How might a deeper grasp of God's justice help you forgive others more easily?
9. Why does God's character seem different between the Old and New Testament and how do you reconcile that?
10. Where have you seen God's punishment of wickedness prove His goodness?
11. What specific situation in your life calls for trusting both God's justice and His patience?

ACTION STEP