

The Case for Hell

A Scripture-Centered Companion for Personal and Group Study

Guided Scripture Study and Reflection
Based on *What Jesus Actually Taught*

This workbook is designed to be used alongside *The Case for Hell*.
It is not intended to stand alone

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WORKBOOK INTRODUCTION

How to Use This Companion Guide

This workbook was created to serve as a companion to *The Case for Hell*. It is not a replacement for the book, nor is it designed to stand on its own. Its purpose is to help readers slow down, return to Scripture, and reflect carefully on what Jesus actually taught.

The subject addressed in the book is serious. Judgment, mercy, and eternity are not abstract ideas. They are truths with weight. For that reason, this workbook is not structured around debate or opinion sharing. Instead, it is designed to guide readers back to the biblical text and to encourage thoughtful, prayerful engagement with Scripture.

Each chapter in this workbook corresponds directly to a chapter in the book. It is strongly recommended that the book chapter be read first before working through the workbook section. The questions and prompts here are meant to reinforce what has already been read, not to introduce new arguments or alternate interpretations.

Throughout this workbook, Scripture is treated as the final authority. Questions are intentionally framed to direct attention to what the Bible says rather than to how the reader feels about it. Feelings matter, but they are not the foundation of doctrine. Jesus' words are.

This workbook can be used in several settings:

- Personal study and reflection
- Small group discussion
- Adult Bible classes
- Pastoral or teaching preparation

When used in a group setting, leaders are encouraged to keep the discussion anchored in Scripture. The goal is not to win arguments or press others into agreement, but to listen carefully to the words of Christ together. Difficult questions should be handled with humility, patience, and reverence for God's Word.

Because the doctrine of hell has often been misused or avoided, a spirit of gentleness is especially important. Scripture warns, but it also invites. This workbook is intended to help readers hold truth and compassion together, just as Jesus did.

Each chapter includes selected Scripture passages, guided questions, and reflection prompts. Space is provided for written responses, but writing is not required for every question. The value of this workbook lies not in completing pages, but in engaging honestly with the Word of God.

Above all, this workbook is meant to serve the gospel. Judgment is real, but mercy is offered. The cross stands at the center of everything discussed here. As you work through these pages, take time to pray, to read Scripture slowly, and to listen for the voice of the Lord.

If at any point the material feels heavy, pause. Return to the Word. Remember that Jesus warned because He loved, and He offered Himself so that judgment would not have the final word.

May this workbook help you listen more carefully, believe more deeply, and respond more faithfully to what Christ has taught.

“To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”

Hebrews 3:15 (KJV)

WORKBOOK CHAPTER 1

Why the Question Will Not Go Away

Scripture Focus (KJV)

Matthew 25:46

“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

John 12:48

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”

Take a moment to read these passages slowly. Do not rush past familiar words. Pay attention to what is stated plainly before considering how it makes you feel.

Key Truths to Remember

- Jesus spoke clearly about judgment.
- Discomfort does not make a doctrine unclear.
- Scripture does not place God’s mercy in conflict with His justice.
- The words of Christ carry final authority.

These truths form the foundation for everything that follows in the book.

Scripture Engagement

1. In Matthew 25:46, what two outcomes are placed side by side?
Write them exactly as they appear in the text.
2. What word is used to describe the duration of both punishment and life?
Why is it important that the same word is used for both?
3. According to John 12:48, what is the standard of judgment on the last day?
Is judgment based on opinion, emotion, or something else?

4. In these passages, does Jesus present judgment as vague or specific?
What details does He choose to include?
-

Reflection

This chapter introduced the idea that resistance to the doctrine of hell often arises not from confusion, but from discomfort.

Consider the following carefully:

- Have you ever found yourself wishing Jesus had spoken differently about judgment?
- What assumptions about God's character might cause someone to soften or reinterpret His words?
- How does acknowledging the authority of Jesus' words change the way you approach difficult doctrines?

Write honestly, but remain anchored in Scripture.

Shepherd's Caution

It is tempting to approach hard teachings defensively, either by avoiding them or by trying to make them more acceptable. Scripture calls believers to a different posture. We are not asked to edit Jesus' words, but to listen to them. Faithfulness begins with submission, not explanation.

This study is not meant to pressure agreement, but it does call for honesty. Discomfort is not a signal to dismiss truth. Often, it is an invitation to listen more carefully.

Prayer Prompt

Lord, help me to hear Your words as You spoke them.
Give me humility where Your truth challenges my assumptions.
Teach me to trust Your character even when Your words are difficult.
Amen.

For Group Leaders (Optional Guidance)

Keep discussion focused on the text.

Resist the urge to resolve every tension in one sitting.

Allow Scripture to speak before commentary is added.

If emotions surface, gently return the group to the words of Christ.

Closing Scripture (Optional)

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NEXT STEP

If this chapter feels right, the structure is now set.

Next we would move to:

Workbook Chapter 2: Listening to Jesus Before Listening to Anyone Else

Say the word when you're ready, and we'll continue building this carefully and consistently.

2

Perfect. Here is **Workbook Chapter 2**, built to match **Book Chapter 2** in tone, structure, and authority. This continues the same pattern so leaders and readers feel continuity and confidence.

WORKBOOK CHAPTER 2

Listening to Jesus Before Listening to Anyone Else

Scripture Focus (KJV)

Matthew 7:28–29

“And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

John 8:31–32

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Read these passages carefully. Notice not only what Jesus says, but how Scripture describes the response to His words.

Key Truths to Remember

- Jesus speaks with authority, not suggestion.
- Truth is known by continuing in His word.

- Discipleship begins with submission to what Jesus says.
- Freedom follows truth, not the other way around.

These truths establish whose voice carries weight when doctrine is considered.

Scripture Engagement

1. According to Matthew 7:29, what distinguished Jesus' teaching from that of the scribes?
Write the key phrase that explains the difference.
 2. What does Jesus require in John 8:31 in order for someone to be considered His disciple indeed?
 3. In John 8:32, what comes first, knowing the truth or being made free?
Why is that order important?
 4. How do these passages challenge the idea that truth should be adjusted to fit comfort or preference?
-

Reflection

Much confusion in doctrine arises not because Jesus was unclear, but because His authority is quietly displaced by other voices.

Consider the following:

- Whose voice tends to carry the most weight when you wrestle with difficult teachings?
- Are there teachers, traditions, or assumptions that you are tempted to place alongside or above the words of Christ?
- How does submitting first to Jesus' authority reshape the way you approach Scripture?

Be honest, but let Scripture remain the final authority.

Shepherd's Caution

It is possible to admire Jesus without obeying Him. Scripture makes a distinction between being impressed by His words and continuing in them. When other voices are allowed to reinterpret or soften what Christ has said, authority shifts quietly. This study calls for a deliberate return to listening to Jesus first, even when His words confront us.

Prayer Prompt

Lord Jesus, teach me to hear Your voice above all others.
Help me to submit to Your word without condition or reservation.
Give me grace to follow You in truth, even when it is costly.
Amen.

For Group Leaders (Optional Guidance)

Encourage participants to quote Scripture directly rather than paraphrasing.
Gently redirect discussion if it drifts toward opinions detached from the text.
Remind the group that authority belongs to Christ, not to consensus.

Closing Scripture (Optional)

Luke 6:46 (KJV)

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

WORKBOOK CHAPTER 3

Hell in the Bible: More Than One Word, One Warning

Scripture Focus (KJV)

Psalm 16:10

“For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”

Luke 16:22–23

“And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.”

Matthew 10:28

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Read each passage slowly. Pay attention to context, description, and outcome.

Key Truths to Remember

- Scripture uses more than one term when speaking of the realm of the dead and final judgment.
 - Different words highlight different aspects of judgment, not different destinations of escape.
 - Jesus used language His listeners would have understood clearly.
 - Distinctions in terms do not weaken the warning. They strengthen it.
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Scripture Engagement

1. In Psalm 16:10, how is the word hell used in relation to the soul? What does this passage suggest about the state being described?

2. In Luke 16:23, what details are given about awareness and experience in hell?
List the specific observations mentioned in the text.
 3. According to Matthew 10:28, who has authority over both soul and body?
What does this imply about the seriousness of judgment?
 4. How do these passages together challenge the idea that biblical references to hell are vague or symbolic?
-

Reflection

Some confusion about hell arises from assuming that different biblical words cancel one another out rather than clarify the whole picture.

Consider the following:

- Have you ever assumed that multiple terms must indicate different outcomes rather than different descriptions?
- How does seeing these passages together help you understand the consistency of Scripture's warning?
- What responsibility do believers have to handle biblical language carefully rather than selectively?

Take time to reflect without rushing to conclusions.

Shepherd's Caution

Word studies are helpful, but they must be handled with humility. Scripture was not given to obscure truth, but to reveal it. When distinctions are used to minimize or dismiss clear warnings, the purpose of Scripture is reversed. Let language serve clarity, not avoidance.

Prayer Prompt

Lord, help me to handle Your Word with care and reverence.
Teach me to seek clarity rather than comfort.

Guard me from using knowledge to avoid obedience.
Amen.

For Group Leaders (Optional Guidance)

Encourage participants not to overanalyze terminology at the expense of meaning.
Keep the focus on what Scripture reveals rather than on speculative conclusions.
Remind the group that clarity often increases responsibility.

Closing Scripture (Optional)

Luke 12:5 (KJV)

“But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.”

WORKBOOK CHAPTER 5

Fire That Is Not Quenched and No Rest Day Nor Night

Scripture Focus (KJV)

Mark 9:43–44

“And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”

Revelation 14:10–11

“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”

Read these passages carefully. Notice the repetition. Notice the duration. Notice what is and is not said.

Key Truths to Remember

- Jesus repeated His warning for emphasis, not effect.
- Fire that is not quenched describes duration, not intensity alone.
- Scripture presents judgment as ongoing, not momentary.
- Revelation confirms, rather than contradicts, Jesus’ warnings.

These truths guard against minimizing language that Scripture intentionally reinforces.

Scripture Engagement

1. In Mark 9, how many times does Jesus repeat the phrase concerning the worm and the fire?
Why might repetition matter in this context?

2. What does it mean for a fire to never be quenched?
Does the text suggest eventual extinction or ongoing condition?
 3. In Revelation 14:11, how is the duration of torment described?
Write the exact phrase used in the verse.
 4. How does the phrase “no rest day nor night” affect the idea of temporary punishment?
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Reflection

These passages are often dismissed as symbolic or hyperbolic. Yet Scripture gives no indication that they are meant to be softened or reinterpreted.

Consider the following:

- Why do you think people are tempted to treat repetition as exaggeration rather than emphasis?
- How does minimizing these warnings affect the seriousness of sin and the urgency of repentance?
- What responsibility comes with clearly understanding these passages?

Reflect carefully, without rushing to justify or dismiss the language.

Shepherd’s Caution

Warnings repeated by Jesus should not be ignored or explained away. Repetition in Scripture is a form of mercy. God warns clearly so that none may claim ignorance. Treating repeated warnings as symbolic removes the urgency Jesus intended.

This chapter calls for sobriety, not fear. Attention, not alarmism.

Prayer Prompt

Lord, help me to take Your warnings seriously.
Guard my heart from dismissing what You repeated.

Let truth lead me to gratitude, not denial.
Amen.

For Group Leaders (Optional Guidance)

Do not speculate beyond the text.
Keep discussion grounded in what is stated plainly.
Resist the urge to soften language for comfort.
Remind the group that clarity is itself an act of mercy.

Closing Scripture (Optional)

Jude 1:7 (KJV)

“Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

WORKBOOK CHAPTER 6

Destroy, Perish, and Death

Scripture Focus (KJV)

Matthew 10:28

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Revelation 20:10

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

Read these passages carefully. Do not assume meanings based on modern usage. Let Scripture define its own terms.

Key Truths to Remember

- Biblical destruction does not mean nonexistence.
- To perish is to suffer ruin, not erasure.
- Death in Scripture often describes separation, not annihilation.
- Eternal life and eternal judgment are consistently contrasted.

These truths help guard against redefining words to avoid uncomfortable conclusions.

Scripture Engagement

1. In Matthew 10:28, what does Jesus say can be destroyed in hell?
Does the verse suggest the soul ceases to exist, or that it is ruined under judgment?

2. In John 3:16, what is contrasted with perishing?
How does everlasting life help define what perishing does and does not mean?
 3. In Revelation 20:10, how long is torment said to last?
How does this verse challenge the idea that destruction equals extinction?
 4. How do these passages together shape a biblical understanding of death and destruction?
-

Reflection

Modern language often equates destruction with disappearance. Scripture does not.

Consider the following:

- Have you ever assumed that to be destroyed must mean to stop existing?
- How does Scripture's contrast between life and punishment clarify the meaning of these terms?
- Why do you think these words are often appealed to when questioning eternal judgment?

Take time to let Scripture reshape assumptions.

Shepherd's Caution

It is easy to read modern meanings back into ancient words. Scripture requires patience and humility. When words like destroy or perish are lifted out of context, they can be made to say what Scripture never intended. Careful reading protects us from building doctrine on assumptions rather than revelation.

Prayer Prompt

Lord, help me to understand Your Word as You intended it.

Guard me from reading my assumptions into Scripture.

Teach me to receive truth even when it challenges my understanding.

Amen.

For Group Leaders (Optional Guidance)

Encourage participants to define words using Scripture, not instinct.

Remind the group that clarity often comes from comparison, not isolation.

Avoid letting discussion drift into speculative philosophy.

Closing Scripture (Optional)

2 Thessalonians 1:9 (KJV)

“Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.”

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Closing Scripture (Optional)

2 Thessalonians 1:9 (KJV)

“Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.”

WORKBOOK CHAPTER 7

Conscious Judgment and the Language of Torment

Scripture Focus (KJV)

Luke 16:23–24

“And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.”

Revelation 20:12–13

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.”

Read these passages carefully. Observe what is stated directly, without adding or removing details.

Key Truths to Remember

- Scripture presents judgment as conscious and experienced.
- Awareness, memory, and recognition are present in judgment.
- Judgment is personal, not abstract.
- Conscious judgment magnifies the seriousness of rejecting grace.

These truths come from the text itself, not from imagination.

Scripture Engagement

1. In Luke 16:23–24, list the actions and experiences described.
What does the passage reveal about awareness?

2. What emotions or requests does the rich man express?
What does this suggest about memory and recognition?
 3. In Revelation 20:12–13, who stands before God in judgment?
How does the phrase “every man according to their works” affect the idea of personal accountability?
 4. Do either of these passages suggest unconsciousness or nonexistence?
If not, where do those ideas usually come from?
-

Reflection

The idea of conscious judgment is often resisted because of its weight, not because Scripture is unclear.

Consider the following:

- Why is the idea of awareness in judgment more troubling than judgment itself?
- How does conscious judgment underscore the importance of repentance in this life?
- How should this truth shape the way believers speak about grace and salvation?

Reflect carefully, without turning away from the text.

Shepherd’s Caution

Some attempt to dismiss passages like Luke 16 as parable in order to avoid their implications. Whether one views the account as parable or historical, Jesus chose conscious experience as the framework. He did not depict judgment as unconscious, temporary, or impersonal. The imagery serves clarity, not confusion.

Prayer Prompt

Lord, help me to take Your warnings seriously.
Let the weight of Your Word lead me to humility and gratitude.

Teach me to speak truth with compassion and faithfulness.
Amen.

For Group Leaders (Optional Guidance)

Keep discussion focused on what the text states explicitly.
Do not speculate about details Scripture does not provide.
Remind the group that seriousness does not require sensationalism.

Closing Scripture (Optional)

Revelation 14:11 (KJV)

“And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night...”

WORKBOOK CHAPTER 8

Justice, Mercy, and the Character of God

Scripture Focus (KJV)

Exodus 34:6–7

“And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.”

Psalm 89:14

“Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.”

Read these passages slowly. Notice how mercy and justice are declared together, not separately.

Key Truths to Remember

- God defines His own character.
- Mercy and justice are not opposites in Scripture.
- God forgives, and God judges, without contradiction.
- Eternal judgment does not diminish God’s goodness.

These truths guard against imagining God as divided against Himself.

Scripture Engagement

1. In Exodus 34:6–7, list the attributes God declares about Himself. Which qualities are emphasized first?
2. What phrase in Exodus 34:7 makes it clear that mercy does not cancel justice?
3. According to Psalm 89:14, what forms the foundation of God’s throne? Why is this important when considering judgment?

4. How do these passages challenge the idea that eternal judgment is incompatible with God's love?
-

Reflection

Many objections to hell are framed as concerns about God's goodness. Scripture invites us to examine whether those concerns come from God's Word or from our assumptions.

Consider the following:

- Have you ever felt the need to defend God by softening what Scripture says?
- Why might mercy feel more comforting than justice, even though both are essential?
- How does seeing justice and mercy together deepen your trust in God's character?

Reflect honestly, but let Scripture lead.

Shepherd's Caution

It is possible to speak warmly about God while quietly reshaping Him. Scripture does not allow us to redefine God's character to make Him more acceptable. God reveals Himself fully, not selectively. When justice is removed, mercy loses its meaning. When mercy is ignored, justice feels severe. Scripture holds both together.

Prayer Prompt

Lord, help me to trust Your character fully.

Teach me to receive Your justice without resentment and Your mercy without presumption.

Let my understanding of You be shaped by Your Word alone.

Amen.

For Group Leaders (Optional Guidance)

Gently redirect discussion if it turns into defending or accusing God.

Keep the focus on what Scripture declares, not on emotional reactions.

Remind the group that God does not need justification. He needs to be believed.

Closing Scripture (Optional)

Romans 11:22 (KJV)

“Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.”

WORKBOOK CHAPTER 10

Speaking the Truth Without Cruelty

Scripture Focus (KJV)

Ephesians 4:15

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”

Colossians 4:6

“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

2 Timothy 2:24–25

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;”

Read these passages carefully. Notice that Scripture addresses tone, posture, and purpose, not just content.

Key Truths to Remember

- Truth and love are not competitors in Scripture.
- Gentleness does not weaken truth. It carries it faithfully.
- Harshness misrepresents the character of Christ.
- Silence about judgment is not compassion.

These truths shape how doctrine is communicated, not whether it is communicated.

Scripture Engagement

1. According to Ephesians 4:15, what is the goal of speaking the truth in love? How does this verse define maturity?

2. In Colossians 4:6, how is speech described?
What balance does Scripture call for?
 3. According to 2 Timothy 2:24–25, how is the servant of the Lord to instruct those who resist truth?
 4. What does this passage suggest about who is ultimately responsible for repentance and conviction?
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Reflection

Truth can be mishandled even when it is correct.

Consider the following carefully:

- Have you ever witnessed truth spoken in a way that pushed people away from Christ rather than toward Him?
- Where is the line between faithfulness and harshness?
- How does remembering your own need for grace shape the way you speak to others about judgment?

Reflect honestly, without justifying past behavior.

Shepherd's Caution

It is possible to defend doctrine while denying its spirit. Scripture never authorizes believers to use truth as a weapon. At the same time, Scripture does not permit silence where warning is needed. Jesus warned clearly and compassionately. His followers are called to do the same.

This chapter calls for courage shaped by humility.

Prayer Prompt

Lord, guard my tongue and my heart.

Teach me to speak truth with clarity and compassion.

Help me to reflect Your character in both what I say and how I say it.
Amen.

For Group Leaders (Optional Guidance)

Redirect discussion if it becomes judgmental or dismissive.

Model calm, patient speech.

Remind the group that tone can either serve truth or undermine it.

Closing Scripture (Optional)

Proverbs 15:1 (KJV)

“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”

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“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;”

Read these passages carefully. Notice that Scripture addresses tone, posture, and purpose, not just content.

Key Truths to Remember

- Truth and love are not competitors in Scripture.
- Gentleness does not weaken truth. It carries it faithfully.
- Harshness misrepresents the character of Christ.
- Silence about judgment is not compassion.

These truths shape how doctrine is communicated, not whether it is communicated.

Scripture Engagement

1. According to Ephesians 4:15, what is the goal of speaking the truth in love? How does this verse define maturity?

2. In Colossians 4:6, how is speech described?
What balance does Scripture call for?
 3. According to 2 Timothy 2:24–25, how is the servant of the Lord to instruct those who resist truth?
 4. What does this passage suggest about who is ultimately responsible for repentance and conviction?
-

Reflection

Truth can be mishandled even when it is correct.

Consider the following carefully:

- Have you ever witnessed truth spoken in a way that pushed people away from Christ rather than toward Him?
- Where is the line between faithfulness and harshness?
- How does remembering your own need for grace shape the way you speak to others about judgment?

Reflect honestly, without justifying past behavior.

Shepherd's Caution

It is possible to defend doctrine while denying its spirit. Scripture never authorizes believers to use truth as a weapon. At the same time, Scripture does not permit silence where warning is needed. Jesus warned clearly and compassionately. His followers are called to do the same.

This chapter calls for courage shaped by humility.

Prayer Prompt

Lord, guard my tongue and my heart.

Teach me to speak truth with clarity and compassion.

Help me to reflect Your character in both what I say and how I say it.
Amen.

For Group Leaders (Optional Guidance)

Redirect discussion if it becomes judgmental or dismissive.

Model calm, patient speech.

Remind the group that tone can either serve truth or undermine it.

Closing Scripture (Optional)

Proverbs 15:1 (KJV)

“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”

WORKBOOK CHAPTER 11

The Verdict

Scripture Focus (KJV)

John 12:48

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”

Hebrews 3:15

“While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”

Revelation 20:15

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Read these passages slowly. These verses are not meant to provoke debate, but to call for honesty and decision.

Key Truths to Remember

- Jesus’ words are not advisory. They are decisive.
- Judgment is based on response to truth, not ignorance of it.
- Delay is not neutrality. It is a choice.
- Mercy is offered while today remains.

This chapter gathers what has already been shown and asks what will be done with it.

Scripture Engagement

1. According to John 12:48, what will judge a person on the last day?
Why is this statement both sobering and clarifying?
2. In Hebrews 3:15, what warning is repeated?
Why does Scripture emphasize the word “to day”?

3. According to Revelation 20:15, what determines whether someone is cast into the lake of fire?
 4. How do these passages together make clear that judgment is personal and final?
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Reflection

A verdict has been reached, not by opinion, but by Scripture.

Consider the following carefully:

- How have your assumptions about hell been challenged or clarified through this study?
- What responsibility comes with clearer understanding of Jesus' words?
- How should this truth shape the way you live, pray, and speak to others?

Do not rush past this reflection. Scripture invites response, not postponement.

Shepherd's Caution

It is possible to agree with doctrine without responding to it. Scripture does not treat knowledge as neutral. Truth received carries responsibility. This study has not been about winning arguments, but about hearing Christ clearly. What is done with that clarity matters.

Prayer Prompt

Lord, help me to respond to Your truth with humility and obedience.

Keep my heart soft while mercy is still offered.

Let my life reflect what I say I believe.

Amen.

For Group Leaders (Optional Guidance)

Do not force conclusions or emotional responses.

Allow silence and reflection.

Encourage prayer and Scripture rather than pressure.

Remind the group that the goal is faithfulness, not conformity.

Closing Scripture

2 Corinthians 6:2 (KJV)

“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

FACILITATOR NOTES

Guidance for Pastors, Teachers, and Group Leaders

This companion workbook is designed to support thoughtful engagement with *The Case for Hell*. It assumes that participants have read the corresponding chapter in the book before discussion begins. The role of the facilitator is not to lecture, debate, or persuade, but to shepherd the group through Scripture with clarity and care.

The subject matter is serious. Judgment, mercy, and eternity are not light topics. For that reason, these notes are offered to help facilitators maintain a tone that is faithful, calm, and grounded in the Word of God.

PURPOSE OF THIS WORKBOOK

This workbook exists to:

- Direct attention back to Scripture
- Reinforce what Jesus actually taught
- Encourage careful listening rather than argument
- Protect against both harshness and avoidance

It is not designed to:

- Win theological debates
- Resolve every emotional reaction
- Serve as a comprehensive theology course
- Pressure participants into immediate verbal agreement

Clarity is the goal. Response belongs to the Lord.

FACILITATOR POSTURE

Effective facilitation in this study depends more on posture than technique.

Facilitators are encouraged to:

- Speak calmly and deliberately
- Allow Scripture to do the heavy lifting
- Model humility when addressing difficult truths
- Admit when a question goes beyond what Scripture states

Avoid:

- Raising your voice for emphasis
- Using sarcasm or dismissive language
- Framing disagreement as rebellion
- Filling every silence with commentary

Silence is often where reflection begins.

HANDLING DIFFICULT MOMENTS

Because this study deals with judgment, some participants may feel unsettled, defensive, or emotional. This is not a failure of the study. It is often a sign that Scripture is being taken seriously.

When tension arises:

- Return the group to the text being discussed
- Read the passage aloud again if needed
- Ask what the Scripture says before asking what it means
- Resist the urge to soften or intensify the language

If someone becomes distressed:

- Acknowledge the weight of the subject
- Affirm God's mercy and patience
- Encourage prayer and continued study
- Avoid offering quick reassurances that Scripture itself does not give

GUIDING DISCUSSION WELL

Good discussion in this study will feel different from casual Bible conversation.

Encourage participants to:

- Quote Scripture directly rather than paraphrasing
- Answer questions with the text in front of them
- Listen without interrupting
- Speak honestly but respectfully

If discussion drifts:

- Gently redirect with a Scripture-based question
- Avoid chasing speculative topics
- Keep the group aligned with the chapter focus

Remember, depth comes from attention, not volume.

A WORD ABOUT UNITY

Not every participant will arrive at the same level of comfort or conviction at the same pace. Scripture does not demand uniform emotional response. It calls for faithfulness.

Facilitators should:

- Guard against shaming or pressuring participants
- Discourage mocking or dismissive attitudes
- Promote patience and charity
- Trust the Holy Spirit to work beyond the session

Unity is preserved by humility, not by forced agreement.

ENDING EACH SESSION

Whenever possible:

- End with Scripture rather than summary
- Close in prayer, keeping it simple and reverent
- Avoid emotional appeals or altar-call style pressure

Let participants leave with Scripture echoing in their minds, not with your words lingering louder than the text.

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT TO FACILITATORS

Teaching on judgment is an act of love when done faithfully. Jesus warned because He cared. Those who teach His words today are called to the same faithfulness.

You are not responsible for outcomes.

You are responsible for clarity.

Trust the Word of God. Speak it plainly. Handle it carefully.