

welcome to
WISDOM



ILLUMINE

CHURCH

STUDY GUIDE

5/8/16 @ 10am
1262 Riverchase Blvd., Rock Hill, SC 29732
(803)810-9398 | illuminechurch.com

useful
NOTES

WHAT TO EXPECT

The goal of education at Illumine is that God would give you spiritual wisdom through lecture, discussion, & his Word. Everything that happens will revolve around a central concept. The class will last for 60-65 minutes.

- **Restrooms** are in the pallet wall hallway.
- There is a nursery available **for parents and restless children**. The rocking chairs in the sanctuary are for you, too.
- Please fill out the **connection card**. It's our best way to get people involved and to plan ahead.
- The entire class is found in this booklet and on the screen. Use whichever you like. The **written music for the songs** is included on the following pages.
- There will be an **offering** today. This is for the regulars – if you're a guest, thanks for coming, it's an honor to have you.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. Everyone you see around you is working to accomplish the same goal – that we can all be served by hearing what God has to say. If we can take down barriers that get between you and that message, we will.

Thank you,



Kent Reeder, Pastor
(803)810-9398
kentr@illuminechurch.com

Show friends where you are – check in!



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TODAY'S CLASS

Education Series: Sketch

Have you ever been reading the Bible and stumbled across something that just doesn't make sense? How can this be true? What could this mean? It's not uncommon for a book that tells the story of an all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present God to be confusing to people with limited experiences like us.

As we deal with these questions, we have the opportunity to act in faith, trusting that God has our best interest at heart. It's good to ask questions – never stop doing so – but as you do, make sure to listen to those who care about you (like your savior) for answers.

Today: Afterlife

Many of the submitted questions were about what takes place after death. Over thousands of years, many cultures have had different ways of talking about the afterlife, but God has always been consistent. Jesus described several times the “paradise” that awaits those set free by the gospel and the pain that awaits those locked down by the law.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Lord,

Today we thank you for mothers,
for the gift of life and the miracle of birth,
for the way you care for children through their parents,
and for the honor of caring for children in your name.

Amen.

MEDITATION & CONFESSION

L We worship in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – the true God who has brought us together.

G Amen.

1 John 1:5-9

L God is light;

G in him there is no darkness at all.

L If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in darkness,

G we lie and do not live out the truth.

L But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,

G we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

L If we claim to be without sin,

G we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

L If we confess our sins,

G he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

L We pray:

G Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am, by nature, sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment, both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

L As promised, through Christ, God is faithful and just and has forgiven your sins and purified you from all unrighteousness.

G Amen.

Faith to be Strong



1. Give us faith to be strong, Fa - ther, we are so
 2. Give us peace when we're torn. — Mend us up when we
 3. Give us hearts to find hope, Fa - ther we can - not



weak. Our bo - dies are fra - gile and wea -
 break. This flesh can be wound - ed and sha -
 see How sor - row we feel can bring free -



ry. As we stag - ger and stum - ble to walk where you
 king When there's much too much trou - ble for one heart to
 dom. And as hard as we try, Lord, it's hard to be -



lead Give us faith to be strong.
 take Give us peace when we're torn.
 lieve; Give us hearts to find hope.



Give us faith to be strong, Give us strength to be



faith - ful, This life is not long — but it's hard.



Give us grace to go on, — Make us wil - ling and a - ble.



Lord, give us faith to be strong.

QUESTIONS RE:AFTERLIFE

Introduction: *The Source of the Afterlife*

A quick dive into the history of thought on the afterlife.

Initial Principles

- God did not create humans as beings that should die.
Genesis 3:22 | And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”

- Even in the Old Testament, people had an understanding of the afterlife.
 - Genesis 25:8 | Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.
 - Hebrews 11:19 | Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.

Will non-believers get a second chance to believe after death?

- Look up Ezekiel 18.
 - When do all people get second, third, fourth, etc. chances?

- Remember the Time of Grace.

Children’s Question | Where is heaven?

Section 1: H-E-Double Hockey Sticks

What is this horrible place?

Does Hell exist?

- Matthew 10:28 | Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
- GEHENNA – The Valley of Hinnom, outside of Jerusalem. Also, the place where Jerusalem burned trash. It has been suggested that when Jesus said Gehenna, he was simply referring to a bad place, like this burning trash heap. When you look at Matthew 10:28, can you find one key difference between Hell and Gehenna?

Why do people in hell *want* to stay in hell?

- CS Lewis once said that “a bad man’s perdition not as a sentence imposed on him but as the mere fact of being what he is.” Couples with Romans 1:28, “Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.” There’s an idea that people in hell are getting what they want.
This is true, to an extent.
- Look up Luke 16:19-31. Does the rich man *enjoy* hell? With your group, name 2 things he does that prove he thinks hell is a bad place to be.

Section 2: *Heaven is My Home*

"In my Father's house there are many rooms."

What will we do in heaven? If it really lasts for eternity, how will we occupy that time?

- First, have each person in your group say one thing that you *want* to do in heaven.
- Look up Revelation 7:9-17. What do think it will mean to "serve God day and night?"
- Who wants you to think that heaven is boring? Why isn't it?

Will only people who believe exactly the same thing as this church go to heaven? Where does God's grace extend, and where does it stop?

- Read John 11:17-27. How does Jesus describe those who will "never die?"
- What, and what alone, is necessary for a person to go to heaven?
- Where can we find comfort in complicated scenarios such as miscarriage, "the bushman," or the severely handicapped?

Section 3: *Baptism for the Dead*

Today's Can o' Worms.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul brings up an interesting practice: baptism for the dead. There are religions that practice this still today, meaning that they baptize living people in place of those who have died without being baptized.

1 Corinthians 15:29-32 | ²⁹ Now if there is no resurrection, **what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?** ³⁰ And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? ³¹ I die every day—I mean that, brothers—just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³² If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

- What happens through baptism, and to whom does it happen?
- Does anyone in your group know of another name for 1 Corinthians 15? (The great _____ chapter)
- Can you use 1 Corinthians 15:12 to explain the point Paul is making when he talks about the baptism for the dead?

Finally...

How can you use the questions we discussed today?

THANKSGIVING & PRAYER

Offering

Connection Cards

Prayer Requests

PayPal: illuminechurch@gmail.com

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**G Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen.**

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go (Next Page)

The Apostles Creed

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go



1. O Love that will not let me go, I
2. O Light that foll-ow'st all my way, I
3. O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I
4. O Cross that lift - est up my head, I



rest my wear - y soul in thee; I
 yield my flick' - ring torch to thee; My
 can - not close my heart to thee; I
 dare not ask to fly from thee; I



give thee back the life I owe, That
 heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, That
 trace the rain - bow through the rain, And
 lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, And



in thine o - cean depths its flow May
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day May
 feel the prom - ise is not vain, That
 from the ground there bloss - oms red Life



ri - cher, full - er be.
 brigh - ter, fair - er be.
 morn shall tear - less be.
 that shall end - less be.

this week @
ILLUMINE

Today

11:30am: Supply Canvass

11:30am: Sunday School

Thursday, May 12th

6pm: Confirmation Class

Friday, May 13th

10am: New BASICS Course Begins

Saturday, May 14th

5:30pm: Volunteer Banquet

Sunday, May 8th

10am: Sketch, Part 3

11:30am: Supply Canvass & Sunday School

Theme: Soup & Crackers

Mark Your Calendars & Sign Up!

Small Groups | Week of May 8th

Mornings with Mommy | May 19th

Confirmation/Lunch | May 29th

Science Camp | July 18-22



Illumine Church is a
confessional Lutheran
congregation and a
member of the
Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod, a
national body of over
1,300 congregations.

