

# DEATH & LIFE

## Luke 16: 19-31

### BEFORE YOU READ

how is lent for you?

Before you read today's text you may want to take a moment to check in with the group about how lent is going for each of them. If people chose to give up something for lent, or take on something new, how is this practice going? Are they learning anything new?

### QUESTIONS BEFORE READING

spiritual or literal?

Do you typically read stories in scripture as literal or something "spiritual"/metaphorical? Or perhaps somewhere in between?

### READING THE TEXT: LUKE 16: 19-31

### SEARCH & FIND

read a few more of Luke's ideas

As much as we'd like to spiritualize this parable, it is very difficult to explain away its central message, especially given what Luke's Gospel says elsewhere about money and possessions.

Ask members of your group to read the following texts aloud: Luke 6:20, 6:25, 12: 13-15, 18:18-24

### QUESTIONS FOR PONDERING

discuss!

Can you think of any other parables where one of the characters is given a proper name? Why do you think the significance of this might be?

As a group, put the Rich man on trial. What were his crimes according to the text? What might key witnesses (his family, his servants), have to say about him? What do you think appropriate punishment or sentencing should be?

What do you notice about each of the deaths described? Do you think of hell as a literal place or do you think this is a metaphor for the hell-on-earth we experience when we live outside of love and leading of God? How do you think our choices impact our eternity?

Over the past few weeks, we have heard stories about being lost, being found, being restored, and now being challenged to examine our choices. Which of these "states of the heart" most resonates with where you are right now?