

GO DEEPER: WRESTLING WITH ULTIMATE QUESTIONS

A Reflection Guide for "What Happens After We Die?"

INTRODUCTION

In this challenging episode of Making Sense of Faith, Adam Hamilton invites us into one of the most difficult questions facing modern faith: the eternal fate of people from other religions. As you reflect on this conversation, use this guide to explore your own beliefs about God's character, justice, and grace—and consider how these insights might transform your relationships with people of different faiths.

3 REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Take a moment to consider what stood out to you most from this episode:

1. Think about someone you know who follows a different faith tradition but lives with remarkable kindness and integrity. How does this person's life challenge or expand your understanding of God's grace?
2. Adam mentions that geography and timing seem to play a huge role in determining people's religious beliefs. How does this reality affect your view of God's fairness and justice?
3. What emotions come up for you when you consider the possibility that God's grace might extend beyond traditional Christian boundaries? Relief? Fear? Confusion? What do those emotions tell you about your current beliefs?

2 KEY INSIGHTS

1. God's Heart for All Nations

"God looks at them like children who just don't understand yet, which is different than looking at them and thinking that they're all damned and I'm gonna just torture them to death forever because they don't understand who I am yet."

Question: What would change in your relationships with people of other faiths if you truly believed God looks at them with parental love rather than condemnation?

Reflection: Consider how viewing others as beloved children of God—even when they don't share your beliefs—might transform your conversations, friendships, and daily interactions with people from different religious backgrounds.

2. Grace Beyond Understanding

"Jesus is the only savior of the world. Whatever he did to accomplish our salvation he has already done in the past... That gift of Jesus' salvation, God can give that salvation to anyone he chooses based on the criteria that he has."

Question: How might this perspective on salvation change your urgency about evangelism while maintaining respect for other people's spiritual journeys?

Reflection: Think about how you can hold both the uniqueness of Jesus and the vastness of God's grace in tension. What would it look like to share your faith from a place of love rather than fear?

1 PRACTICE EXERCISE

The Compassionate Imagination

Find a quiet space and take 10 minutes for this exercise:

1. Think of a specific person you know who follows a different faith tradition (Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, etc.)
2. Close your eyes and imagine God looking at this person with the same love a parent has for their child
3. Picture Jesus having a conversation with this person—not to condemn, but to understand their heart and their sincere seeking
4. Reflect on what you observed in this person's life that reflects God's character: their kindness, integrity, service to others, or love for family
5. Consider how this exercise changes your prayers for this person
6. The next time you interact with them, consciously approach them as someone deeply loved by God

Remember: This isn't about changing your beliefs about Jesus, but about expanding your understanding of God's heart for all people.

QUOTES TO CONSIDER

"I think about my friend Art... when art dies, he is gonna go, Adam was right all along, and he's gonna see Jesus. And if I'm wrong, I'm gonna die. I'm gonna go, Jesus was a really great teacher, and I'm gonna count on the grace of God is gonna rescue me if I'm wrong."

"The first group of people to actually bow down and pay him homage [to baby Jesus were the magi]... they were astrologers... And God gave them exactly what they needed to be able to travel a thousand miles, to bring gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus."

"As much as you've done this for the least of these, you did it for me. Welcome into my kingdom... Compassion, mercy, justice were the things that Jesus talks about there."

CLOSING REFLECTION

Wrestling with questions about other faiths doesn't require you to abandon your beliefs—it invites you to explore the depths of God's character. As you close this reflection time, consider one relationship where you can practice viewing someone through the lens of God's love rather than religious difference. Remember that having questions doesn't weaken faith; it often deepens it.

This reflection guide was created to accompany the Making Sense of Faith podcast episode "What Happens to Good People of Other Faiths?" For more resources like this, visit makingsenseoffaith.com.