

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

Festivals

This week many festivals are celebrated in Asia and around the world. Chinese culture celebrates the Moon Cake Festival, and in Korea, it is their Thanksgiving festival or Chusok day.

HOT TOPICS

1. Are you celebrating any festivals this week? Which festival are you celebrating this week? What would you normally do at this time back in your country? *In threes*
2. In your group, discuss the meaning of Moon festival or Korean Thanksgiving Day.
3. For Korean Thanksgiving, many families meet together and visit their ancestors' graves. They may pray to their ancestors for good luck and good fortune for themselves and their family. In your culture, do you do something similar? What do some people think might happen if they do not worship their ancestors? *In threes*
4. In Australia, we have no special ceremony for our ancestors. If somebody dies, we may visit the gravesite to remember them but not to give them anything or worship them. This probably comes from our Western culture, which has been influenced by Christian belief.

Christians believe that when you die, you either go to heaven to be with God or hell to be without God. When you die you, you cannot influence - bring good or bad luck to the people living. Jesus told a story about this in Luke chapter 16.

The Story. Before reading the story, the teacher will introduce any new or key words and tell the story. Now it's your turn! Break into groups of 4. Assign each person a reading role. Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Rich Man, Abraham.

Narrator 1: There was once a rich man who dressed in the most expensive clothes and lived in great luxury every day.

Narrator 2: There was also a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores. Lazarus used to be brought to the rich man's door, hoping to eat the bits of food that fell from the rich man's table. The poor man died and went to heaven and sat beside Abraham (a famous man who followed God) at the feast in heaven.

Narrator 1: The rich man died and was buried and went to Hell. He was in great pain and he looked up and saw Lazarus next to Abraham, in heaven.

Rich Man (calling): Father Abraham! Take pity on me, and send Lazarus to give me some water because I am in great pain in this fire!

Narrator 2: But Abraham said:

Abraham: Remember, in your lifetime you were given all the good things but Lazarus got all the bad things. But now he is enjoying himself here; while you are in pain. Anyway, there is a deep pit lying between us, so you cannot come here.

Rich man: Then I beg you Abraham, send Lazarus to my father's house, where I have five brothers. Let him go and warn them so that they will not come to hell.

Abraham: Your brothers have the teachings of Moses and God's followers to warn them; your brothers should listen to what they say.

Rich Man: But that is not enough! They won't believe! But if someone was to come back to life after they die, they would believe!

Abraham: If they will not listen to Moses or the other follower's of God, they will not listen or believe - even if someone were to come back to life after they die.

Discussion

1. *In pairs, discuss: Why did Jesus tell this story?* Choose one or more from below:
 - a. rich people go to hell / poor people go to heaven?
 - b. once you die, where you go (heaven or hell) cannot be changed?
 - c. we only live once?
 - d. even if someone came back to life after they die - we still would not believe them....?
 - d. other.....?

Christians believe the choices you make in this life - to believe in God or not to believe in God, cannot be changed after you die. People go to heaven - not because they are perfect or because their ancestors help them - but because they choose to believe in Jesus.

2. In groups of three what do you think happens to you after your die?

Vocabulary

Ancestors: relative or family who lived a long time ago.
Worship: to show respect by saying prayers or doing religious ceremonies
Gravesite: a place in the ground where somebody is buried.
Reincarnation: the belief that a dead person's spirit returns in another body - insect, animal, rich person...
Arrogant: very proud. A person who is arrogant - thinks they are better than other people.