

Life Group Leader's Guide

For the week of Nov. 13, 2016

Quick Review

As a Life Group, recall the four truths about the second coming that should impact your heart. Which truth is the most relevant and personal to you as a follower of Christ? Why?

4 Truths noted in Marks Sermon...

1. I shouldn't be surprised
2. I should be alert to his coming, aware that it could happen any day.
3. I should be controlled in my lifestyle
4. Be an encourager

My Story

1. What if you had to suddenly flee your home and all you could take with you is a backpack full of supplies for the next 30 days, what would you take with you?
2. Share a moment in your life when you felt like you needed to prepare yourself for a particular future event. What was your motivation for your preparation? Was your preparation worth it?

Digging Deeper

1. Go a little deeper with I Thes. 5:1-11 and answer the following questions:
 - 5:1-2: Why does nothing need to be written about the "times and seasons"? Why is this important for us to keep in mind?
 - A. What does "times and seasons" refer to? It appears to be a reference to the day when the Lord will return.
 - B. It seems like the people might have been concerned about "how" and "when" things were going to happen. Paul indicates that they should not overly concern themselves with things they don't need to know, beyond what he has already told them.
 - 5:3: What is the purpose of Paul's comments in verse 3? In other words, what point is Paul trying to make by using such dark imagery?

The day of the Lord is a common OT expression (Amos 5:18-20). It is a day of intense judgement and great salvation. It appears that Paul is using dark imagery to encourage the believers that the return of Christ will be sudden/unexpected and that unbelievers will be judged.

- 5:4-10: What does darkness and light have to do with the day of the Lord? How should “children of the light” live as ones called to live in the light?
 - 5:11: How is encouragement of others connected to hopeful anticipation of Christ’s imminent return?
 - In your own words, summarize the central idea of I Thes. 5:1-11.
2. Read Matt. 25:1-13. What does this passage teach about being wise and ready concerning the future coming of Christ’s kingdom?
 3. It is important to be prepared for Christ’s return as we have noted above. It is equally important to be prepared to live as a disciple of Christ as we engage in the ministry God has given us. Read Matt. 10:5-15 and consider the following questions:
 - Consider Christ’s ministry preparation speech, what expectations were placed on the disciples?
 - Why was this pep talk important for them to hear? What hurdles or distractions would hold them back from effective ministry?
 - What do Christ’s words mean for us today? How do they encourage you or challenge you?

Taking it Home

1. Preparation for future events and activities is essential. How is God asking you to prepare yourself for spiritual growth and ministry participation?
2. Knowing that Christ could return at any moment, briefly describe how you want to live your life as a Christian?