

JESUS & THE LAST DAYS

JOHN 14 & MATTHEW 24

MAIN TAKEAWAY

All around us are signs of the times telling us Jesus is coming. The return of Jesus is imminent!

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Have you ever misread a sign or failed to read it altogether? Share what happened.

What “signs of the times” point to Christ’s return?

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:1-3

Why should your heart not be troubled? How does this give you hope in an uncertain world?

Jesus has prepared a place for us and is coming for us. How are you preparing for the place that has been prepared for you?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 24:3-14

Pastor Greg said, “Bible prophecy is not given to *scare* us but, rather, to *prepare* us.” How can you react to current events by looking at them through the lens of faith rather than fear? How does Bible prophecy help you focus on your faith?

The Tribulation period begins with the emergence of Antichrist (v.5). Why won’t Christians be present for the Great Tribulation? What is the “restraining force” in the world today?

The Tribulation period ends with the return of Jesus Christ to the earth (v.30). If the emergence of the Antichrist is close, what is even closer? How does this give you perspective about what is to come?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 24:36 - 44

How do current events and moral decline cause you to “look up” (v.37-38)?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. What is the Rapture? Why is there a Rapture?

What is the difference between the Rapture and the Second Coming? Why is it important to not confuse these two events?

Christians do not grieve hopelessly but hopefully. How do the truths of the Rapture bring encouragement to God’s people?

When Jesus comes again, it will be fast and without warning (Revelation 22:12-13). How is this a sobering reality in your life? How does it compel you to share the gospel?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How should you respond to the imminent return of Jesus (Revelation 22:20-21)? In what way is your response to Jesus’ return a “litmus test” of where you’re at in your relationship with God? If Jesus came back today, would you be ready and rejoicing or hesitant and unprepared?

How can you take seriously Paul’s exhortation to encourage others in response to the reality of the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11)? How can such encouragement regularly happen in Harvest Groups?

Share a highlight from Pastor Greg’s interview with Joel Rosenberg. How would you like to grow in your understanding of the last days?

PRAYER

Give thanks for Rapture of the church and the return of Christ. Pray for renewed hope and perspective as you prepare for Christ’s imminent return. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with nonbelievers and spiritual encouragement with believers.