

# SIGNS OF THE LAST DAYS & WHY YOU SHOULDN'T PANIC

— 1 JOHN 2 & 3

### MAIN TAKEAWAY

God loves us and has adopted us as His children. As we await His return, we need to be rooted in Christ—abiding in Christ is the key to spiritual growth.

### INTRODUCTION

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

Why is the best defense a good offense? How does a stronger love drive out lesser ones? Share an example. How have you experienced this spiritually?

## UNDERSTANDING

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

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 JOHN 2:18-29

The Antichrist is coming (after the Rapture). Antichrists are here already. "Anti" not only means "against" but also "instead of." In what ways are people always looking for substitutes for Christ? Why does Satan deceive by imitation?

As some people "deconstruct" from the faith, Pastor Greg said, "If your faith collapses, maybe it was never constructed on Christ to start with." What are "pretend" believers a sign of (v.19; 1 Timothy 4:1)?

Like the prodigal son, Pastor Greg explained that Christians may struggle, but true believers will always come home: "If they leave and never return then they were not true believers to begin with." How do God's promises provide assurance of eternal life (v.25)?

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 JOHN 3:1-7

God loves you more than you could ever know. Why is it important to understand that God's love is not based on what you do but on what He did (John 3:16; Romans 5:8)?

Because you are loved by God, He adopted you as His child (Ephesians 1:5). How does the intentionality of human adoption illustrate the gospel message? How does God's adoption of you reveal His desire to have a personal relationship with you?

The return of Jesus should cause us to want to live godly lives. What will happen when your faith becomes sight? How does this future hope affect your present focus?

If we really believe Jesus is coming, we will not be sinless, but we will sin less. Pastor Greg said, "Grace isn't permission to stay the same—it's power to change." Then he explained the term "antinomianism." What does this term mean, and how can Christians guard against it?

We need to be rooted in Christ as we await His return. What does it mean to "abide" in Christ? Why isn't it about striving harder, but about staying closer?

Abiding in Christ is the golden key to spiritual growth. Why is consistency the secret to the Christian life? Why won't you live in habitual sin if you abide in Christ?

# APPLICATION

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

How did this message remind you about the importance of having a personal relationship with God? As Pastor Greg asked, "If you feel far from God, guess who moved?" What happens when you consistently behold God's love (1 John 3:1)?

Pastor Greg explained, "If we study the end times and our lives are not impacted, we have missed the point. The study of Bible prophecy should not scare us but prepare us." How does learning about the last days help you focus on what you're doing and how you're living? How does the return of Jesus purify you (Romans 13:11-14)?

# PRAYER

Give thanks for God's love and Christ's soon return. Pray that you will behold God's love and abide in Christ as you await His return. Pray for prodigals to return and pretenders to repent.