



Oakwood

CHURCH

September 27 Discussion Questions

“Is this the End of the World?”

Matthew 24:1-14

Preview

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates... But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.” Matthew 24:32-33,36

We cannot know the Exact Timing of the Lord’s Return but there are Obvious Signs to watch for (Matthew 24:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:4).

Increasing Birth Pains:

1. **Deception** (Matthew 24:4-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:2)
2. **Devastation** (Matthew 24:6-8; Revelation 6:8)
3. **Persecution** (Matthew 24:9; Revelation 6:9-11)
4. **Proclamation** (Romans 11:25-26; Matthew 24:14)

Start of the Great Tribulation:

1. A Global **Leader** (Revelation 6:2)
2. A Global **Crisis** (Revelation 6:3)
3. A Global **“Peace”** (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15-16)

“Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household? Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time?” Matthew 24:44-45

Connect

1. Think back to when you were dating your future spouse. What signs did they give that indicated they were interested in continuing the relationship?
2. What lesson do we learn from the fig tree in Matthew 24:32-33?
3. What signs happening in our world right now seem to indicate we are getting closer to Christ's return? What emotions does this spark inside of you?

Read Matthew 24:1-14

Discuss

4. What did Jesus say would happen to the temple in Jerusalem? How did the disciples likely interpret this?
5. Make a list together as a group of the things Jesus named that must take place before the end. Which one most strikes you?
6. Based on Pastor Darin's message, what important end-time events can we put on a timeline? What still confuses you? Spend time as a group discussing what we can know for certain from the Bible, but don't get held up in details or non-essentials.
7. Pastor Darin said there will likely be Christians at the very end who recite a new motto: "*You cannot kill me; you can only send me home.*" Does the idea of persecution for the Gospel inspire honor or fear in you? In what ways are Christians in America already facing persecution?
8. What responsibility are we given in v.14? In what ways are we seeing this being accomplished? What will it take to complete this mission? What greater part can our church and you personally play in its completion?
9. What else was intriguing to you from this passage or Pastor Darin's message? What do you want to study more?

Apply

10. In what way is this a wake up call for the church and for you personally?
11. If you knew Jesus was coming back tomorrow, how would that affect the way you live today? What does this communicate about your usual level of passion and urgency for Christ's return?
12. What is a holy assignment God has given you that you've been dragging your feet with? How has this study changed your perspective on it?

Pray

Church Prayer Focus from the Prayer Team

Personal Prayer Focus: Pray that we will remain faithful to advance God's kingdom in these troubling times.

Ministry Prayer Focus: Pray for the Missions Team to faithfully and boldly lead our church forward in completing the Great Commission.