

MATTHEW 24:1-3

DISCUSSION GUIDE

STEP 1 - PRAY FOR GOD TO GIVE UNDERSTANDING

STEP 2 - READ TEXT

Read the text: Matthew 24 -> Notice the whole chapter for context

STEP 3 - DISCUSS TEXT

DISCUSS THE TEXT BRIEFLY:

BASED ON WHAT JESUS IS SAYING, HOW CLOSE DO YOU THINK CHRIST'S RETURN IS?

APOCALYPTIC WRITINGS ARE ALWAYS PROPHETIC.
PROPHETIC WRITINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS APOCALYPTIC.
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE AND WHY IS THAT SIGNIFICANT?

STEP 4 - DEEPER DISCUSSION

DEEPER DISCUSSION:

1. IN THE SERMON, WE TALK ABOUT HOW GOD NOW LIVES IN HIS PEOPLE AS THE TEMPLE INSTEAD OF A PHYSICAL BUILDING... WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT?

2. IN THE SERMON WE TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SEEING PAST WHAT WE SEE WITH OUR PHYSICAL EYES TO SEEING WHAT GOD WANTS US TO SEE. WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF FOCUS ON WHAT OUR PHYSICAL EYES CAN SEE RATHER THAN SEEING WITH OUR SPIRITUAL EYES?
3. HOW CAN WE SEE PAST WHAT WE SEE WITH OUR PHYSICAL EYES?

ANSWER: Start with prayer and the Word of God. Prayer generates humility and the Word of God renews our minds to see things the way God does. Without these components one cannot see beyond the physical.

STEP 5 - ACTIVITY

Break into groups if necessary.

Make a list of the events foretold in Matthew 24. Go through the list and notate which items have already occurred and make reference to specific events that line up with the prophecy.

When done, check to see how many events have been marked off. Discuss the impact of seeing the results.

STEP 6 - TAKE HOME OR SEEK HELP

For deep internal reflection: ARE YOU LIVING AS IF CHRIST IS GOING TO RETURN TONIGHT?!

Encourage them to contemplate during communion, and possible confess their sin to the group or someone privately.