

# MATTHEW 24:15-28, 32-35

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### STEP 1 - PRAY FOR GOD TO GIVE UNDERSTANDING

### STEP 2 - READ TEXT

 Read the text: Matthew 24:15-28, 32-35

### STEP 3 - DISCUSS TEXT

 DISCUSS THE TEXT BRIEFLY:

IN THE SERMON WE DISCUSS THE 7 IMPERATIVES (GROUPED INTO THREE CATEGORIES) THAT WE LEARN FROM THIS TEXT. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE IMPERATIVES:


1. Obedience
  - a. V16 - Flee
  - b. V17 - Do not go down
  - c. V18 - Do not turn back
2. Pray
  - a. V20 - Pray
3. Discern
  - a. V32 - Learn
  - b. V23 and v26 - Do not believe
  - c. V26 - do not go out

## OBEDIENCE

In the sermon we discuss how being obedient is more important than having all the answers. While this can be hard, because we often feel we need the answers before we can obey, this is the opposite of faith. The entire foundation of Christian is built on faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

So often we will have to obey even when we don't understand why. This can be very hard, but it is essential.

 DISCUSS:

1. What things in life are hard to obey on when it comes to God's Word?
2. Why do you think we feel we need to understand before we obey, and how does this hurt our relationship with God.
3. As a fun transition consider: Ask parents in the room to give examples of when they wanted their kid to do something just out of obedience even though they didn't understand why.
  - a.  POINT: The point of this is to get them to realize that what they ask their subordinates or children to do in real life and how God interacts with us is very similar. We often ask people to obey without them understanding the why as God does. So it's unfair for us to put different expectations on God

## DISCERNMENT

In the sermon we talk about the importance of discernment. A lot of people think they are great discerners, but they aren't.

 DISCUSS: What are the qualities that make someone good at discernment?

✓ ANSWER: Look for these things: People that put up situations against the Word of God as the ultimate discernment tool and those who are

better at listening than talking. Great discernment comes from observation through careful listening and watching for patterns.

😞 DISCUSS: Can people at times bring their baggage into their “discernment” ?

✓ ANSWER: Of course they can! And they often do.

## STEP 4 - ACTIVITY

Take the sheet of paper that had the names on it from last week and PRAY over those names.

## STEP 5 - TAKE HOME AND DEEPER DISCUSSION

Which of the THREE Imperative categories can you improve on?

1. OBEDIENCE
2. PRAYER
3. DISCERNMENT