

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker

Question: What stresses you out?

- Sermons about stress
- Driving from Jackson during rush hour
- Talking about stress
- Having too much to do
- Being an adult
- Ole Miss Football
- Other: _____

Read Luke 21:4-25

Why has this particular passage been so confusing in through the ages?

Question: In your opinion, when did most of these events described take place?

- They haven't happened
- They all happened in AD70 when Jerusalem was sacked.
- Some of them happened in AD70 when Jerusalem was sacked.
- I don't know. Its all so confusing!
- Other: _____

Why does this question matter to us?

Four Things Jesus Commanded His People When the World is Falling Apart

1. Stay on the Right Path

And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. (verse 8)

Question: Why is it so difficult for people to stay on the right path when thinking about Jesus' second coming?

- We like quick fixes
- Those guys on TV are so convincing and the guys on YouTube even more
- The end of the world feels ominous and scary and the biblical teaching can be confusing
- There are so many thoughts on this topic that it becomes hard to know what the right path is.
- Other: _____

Lets face it, the last few years have been pretty immense. There have been lots of opportunities to get off the right path. How have you seen people go off the path in the last few years? Is there a path that you got interested in during the last few years?

2. Stay Calm

*And when you hear of wars and tumults, **do not be terrified**, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."*

(verse 9)

Question: What has been the scariest thing about the last few years for you?

- Pandemic
- Election
- The war in Ukraine
- Inflation
- Tom Brady winning another Super Bowl
- Other: _____

As these sorts of events continue to happen in history, what promises from God can help stay calm or "not be terrified".

3. Stay Present with Others

But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. [13] This will be your opportunity to bear witness. (vv 12-13)

Why do you think the Christian witness seems to be more effective during seasons of persecution? Why does Jesus say that this is an opportunity?

Question: Can you think of anyone that needs to hear about Jesus in your life?

- A Neighbor
- Another parent
- A family member
- Someone I work with
- Other: _____

What would be the next step for you to share Jesus and "bear witness?"

4. Stay the Course

But not a hair of your head will perish. [19] By your endurance you will gain your lives. (vv 18-19)

Question: Why is endurance so important in our walks with Jesus?

Jesus says "not a hair of your head will perish" immediately after he says some disciples will die. What is Jesus talking about?

- This is obviously a contradiction
- He's talking about two different guys. The first guy was Larry who died. The other guy was Gary and he didn't have any hair so none of it was lost.
- He's pointing to the resurrection
- I'm not sure
- Other: _____

Question: How does the resurrection tomorrow give us hope for today?

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
