

SERMON SERIES: The Final Chapters  
SCRIPTURE: Luke 21:5-37  
SPEAKER: Mike Woodruff  
DATE: January 21/22, 2017

# Small Group Discussion Guide

*for leaders* (see below for participants' guide)

## Gathering Time

- Make sure newcomers are welcomed and engaged in conversation
- Offer a snack and drink if the setting is right (i.e. a home)
- Arrange seating so everyone in the group can see each other

## Getting Acquainted

- **What is one takeaway from your last small group meeting? How are you doing putting it into practice in your life?**
  - As routine opener to group meetings, this question encourages individuals to apply your discussions in their lives. It also brings continuity & intentionality from meeting to meeting.
- **What is something you're looking forward to?**
  - This question sets the stage for the Bible Exploration and helps people get to know one another on a personal level.

## Bible Exploration

- **Read Luke 21:5-37 as a group and reflect on what Jesus says about the future. What statements stand out and why? Are there things you don't understand? Discuss.**
- **Do Jesus' words about death and destruction give you fear or hope for the future? Why?**
- **In the sermon, Mike pointed out several big ideas that are communicated in Luke 21:5-37. How should these truths inform our perspective on the future and the way we live today? Which ones are most impactful to you?**
  - We should expect to suffer.
  - Jesus knows the future.
  - Before the end comes, the gospel is preached around the world.
  - Not all religions are the same.
  - Jesus fulfills Judaism.
  - The end is glorious for those who know Christ and are forgiven.
  - The end is tragic for those who do not know Christ.
  - Jesus wins.

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- **What do you look forward to more, your future on this Earth or Jesus' return? Why?**
- **What might change about your life if you began to focus more on Jesus' return?**
- **What is one takeaway from this conversation you can put into practice in your life? What specific action can you take before our next meeting?**

## Prayer

- Invite the group to participate in a time of "conversational" prayer. Each person may pray as often as he or she wants, but only 1-2 short sentences on one topic at a time. This lowers the barrier of participation for people unaccustomed to praying with others.

## Wrap-Up

- Be sure to end the formal conversation on time.
- Thank newcomers for joining you, and invite everyone to the next meeting.
- Encourage people to linger for a few minutes, and do your best to have a personal interaction with each individual before he or she leaves.

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### Prayer