

SERMON SERIES: The Final Chapters
SCRIPTURE: Matthew 24:1-25
SPEAKER: Mike Woodruff
DATE: January 28/29, 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 one thing in your life where you have a sense of urgency?**
 - This question sets the stage for the Bible Exploration and helps people get to know one another on a personal level.

Bible Exploration

- **Read Matthew 24:1-25 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.**
- **In the sermon, Mike pointed out several implications of Jesus' teaching in Matthew 24:1-25. Do any of these challenge your point of view on life, death & eternity? W**
 - History is headed somewhere.
 - Things will get rough before Jesus returns.
 - We do not have to be anxious.
 - We are expected to share the gospel.
 - Eternity changes everything.
- **What makes you anxious today? How is your perspective changed when you consider eternity with God?**
- **Do you feel a sense of urgency to talk about Jesus and eternity with others? Why or why not?**

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- **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