



- The **church** should be a safe place to ask questions.

Jesus' disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?" Matthew 24:3

- The last days refer to the final days that lead up to **Jesus's return**.

There are many rooms in my Father's house; I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you may be where I am. John 14:2-3

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

2 things about The End Times:

- The End Times should not generate **fear** but encouragement.

- Only the Father knows **when** Jesus will come again.

...no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. Matthew 24:36 (NLT)

When it comes to The Last Days:

- Many of the signs of the end times have to do with what's happening in **Israel** and the surrounding areas.

What Jesus says about the Last Days:

- **Deception** - People claiming to be the Messiah.

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many." Matthew 24:4-5 (NIV)

These teachers oppose the truth...They have depraved minds and a counterfeit faith. 2 Timothy 3:8

- **Destruction** - Wars and rumors of wars.

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." Matthew 24:6-7a

- **Disasters** - Famines and Earthquakes.

And there will be famines, pestilences, and earth-quakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Matthew 24:7b-8

- **Discrimination** - Persecution against Christians.

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. Matthew 24:9

- **Defection** - Many will turn away from the faith.

At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. Matthew 24:10-13

- **Distracted** - Caught up in life.

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. Matthew 24:37-39

Because Jesus is coming soon:

- We have to **always be ready**.

But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation. 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8 (NLT)

You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected. Luke 12:40 (NLT)

- We have to stay focused on **eternity**.

Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. Colossians 3:2 (NLT)

But our homeland is in heaven, where our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, is; and we are looking forward to his return from there. When he comes back, he will take these dying bodies of ours and change them into glorious bodies like his own...Philippians 3:20-21 (TLB)

- We have to **reach out** to people.

...Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. Luke 14:22-23 (NLT)

Go easy on those who hesitate in the faith. Go after those who take the wrong way. Be tender with sinners, but not soft on sin... Jude 1:22-23 (MSG)

- We need to **encourage** other believers.

God did not choose us to suffer his anger but to have salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus died for us so that we can live together with him, whether we are alive or dead when he comes. So encourage each other and give each other strength, just as you are doing now. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 (NCV)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:
These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you think we are living in the End Times? Why?
- Do you have any questions about the rapture? What concerns you about the rapture?
- When you think about the End Times does it create fear or encouragement? Explain.
- Many of the "Signs" that Jesus points out have been a part of every generation; Do you believe we see them more in our current generation? Explain.
- Which of these "signs" affects you the most?
- Talk through the points under the subheading: "What Jesus says about the last days". How do you see these in the world today and do any of these affect you personally?
- How can we live in a state of being ready?
- Why is it important to focus on eternity? How do we do that?
- Why do we need to reach out to people? What does it mean to reach out to people?
- Do you make encouraging believers, about Jesus' return, a priority in your life?

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Today's Talk..



Are we living in the Last Days?

Sunday, April 23rd, 2023

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