

• Everyone claims a truth, but the **Bible** is the only truth that matters.

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. John 14:2-3 (NIV)

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 <u>caught up</u> in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So <u>encourage each other with these words</u>. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NLT)

Truth we need to know about the Rapture:

- The rapture should not create <u>fear</u> but <u>encouragement</u>.
- Only God knows when it will happen.

...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 the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. "Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.

"So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected. Matthew 24:37-44 (NLT)

... in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that! 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NLT)

Understanding the End Times:

• The End Times begin with the rapture.

17...we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be <u>caught up</u> in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NLT)

• It's an event that will happen unexpectedly.

For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come <u>unexpectedly</u>, <u>like a thief in the night</u>. 1 Thessalonians 5:2 (NLT)

"Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left. Matthew 24:40-41 (NLT)

• It's when Christians are taken up to heaven.

The Rapture:

It will happen when people are looking for peace.

When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape. 1 Thessalonians 5:3 (NLT)

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 <u>our homeland is in heaven</u>, 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.

23 ...'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 live with hope.

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 <u>caught up</u> in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So <u>encourage each other with these words</u>. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NLT)



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.

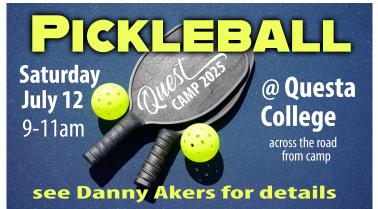
- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- What is one scripture about the End times that stands out to you? Why?
- Do you think we are living in the End Times?
- As you look over the timeline Do you have any questions?
- Talk about the benefits of looking at prophecy. Do you find these points to be true?
- When you think about the End times does it create fear or encouragement? Explain.
- The scripture describes what it will be like during the End Times, what is different (or similar) from today's world?
- Do you think that people are looking for peace today?
- The Bible talks about Jesus' return as "a thief in the night". The scripture says that if we knew when the thief was coming we would be ready. How can we be ready for Jesus' return?
- 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?

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Today's Talk..



Living Rapture Ready

Sunday, June 29th, 2025