



# Life Group Discussion Guide

## March 30 – Mark 13 --- Faithfulness, Judgment, and His Coming

### Life Group Leaders,

During our *100 Days with Jesus*, you will have two approach options to guide your group in studying Sunday's text. We encourage you to try both methods over the next few months.

1. **Discussion Questions** – Each week, you'll receive a set of questions related to the text. If you choose this option, feel free to select the questions that best fit your group's needs and dynamics.
2. **SEEDS Discovery Bible Study** – This method introduces a Bible study format designed to empower participants to engage deeply with Scripture. The goal is to equip your group members with a practical tool for exploring the Bible with others, aligning with our mission to *Advance the Kingdom* with Jesus.

Both options are designed to enrich your group's experience. Experiment with each to discover what works best for your group. Thank you for leading and serving so well!

### Discussion Questions:

#### Opening Reflection:

1. Have you ever needed to stand up for truth in your school, work, or family relationships or refused to participate in something unlawful or unjust and found yourself hated or "on trial" in a sense?
2. What do you find confusing or difficult to understand about what the Bible says about the future? What have you previously understood about the Second Coming of Christ?

### Mark 13:1-31 – Signs of the End of the Age

3. **Read Mark 13:1-31** aloud.
  - What stands out to you in this passage?
4. Why do you think Jesus built his teaching on the disciples' question about the temple? Why would this be an important parallel for them?
5. What two questions did the disciples ask Jesus in response to His initial warning about the temple grounds (v4)? Have you found yourself asking similar questions?
6. Randy alluded to this in the sermon, but how do we know that Jesus' answer isn't simply about the destruction of the temple in 70 AD and is also looking to a time beyond that?

7. The warnings given in verses 5-13 are similar to a passage in 2 Thessalonians. **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17.** What did the apostle Paul say to the church at Thessalonica that mirrors what Jesus said to His disciples?
8. How can we stand firm to the end?
9. What does the “abomination that causes desolation” mean (v14)? How were Jesus’ disciples to respond to this “sign”?
10. If time/interest allows, consider reading more about this in the book of Daniel: 8:13, 9:27, 11:31, and 12:11. How does the inclusion of these prophecies centuries earlier encourage you to remember and know that God is unchanging and sovereign? How do you think these passages would have done similar for the disciples Jesus was teaching (they would have certainly known these prophecies as well).
11. In Mark 13:14-19 speaks about not trying to go back for things of this world during the warning signs of the end of the age. How might you be tempted to go back for something in this moment? What might you be tempted to retrieve or tend to?
12. How might some be deceived by false Christs and false prophets in the last days (v21-23)? How can we guard against this?
13. What events does Jesus say must happen just before the Second Coming of Christ (Mark 3:24-25)? How does this echo Daniel 7:13?

#### **Mark 13:32-37 –The Day and Hour Unknown**

14. **Read Mark 13:32-37** aloud.
  - What stands out to you in this passage?
15. What is the overarching message in this passage? What are we, as Christians waiting for Christ’s return, to do as a result of this passage?
16. **Read Luke 12:35-48** aloud.
17. How can you be dressed and ready for service? How can you keep your lamps burning?
18. What do you need to personally guard against so that you can stand firm until the end?
19. What can you do today to ensure you are not asleep at Christ’s return?
20. What can you do today to ensure that others are ready as well—share the gospel, encourage the brothers, exalt Jesus?
21. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** as a benediction for your group. Pray that you will encourage one another and build each other up as you watch, stand guard, and wait for that day when our Savior Jesus Christ will return in glory and praise!

## SEEDS Bible Study:

The Discovery Method works most effectively in small groups of three to four people. For larger gatherings, consider breaking into smaller groups to encourage deeper discussion. Here's a simple format to follow:

- **Form Small Groups:** Divide the larger group into smaller groups of three to four people.
- **Pose Questions:** Present one question at a time for the smaller groups to discuss. Allow a few minutes for meaningful conversation.
- **Share Insights:** Invite groups to share their thoughts with the larger group, if they feel led. This step fosters collective learning and reflection.
- **Repeat for Additional Questions:** Continue the process with the next question, following the same structure.
- **Close in Prayer:** Conclude the session with prayer, either within the smaller groups or together as a large group.

This approach encourages participation, reflection, and shared learning while keeping the conversation focused and engaging.

## Discussion Questions:

### Share

- What are you grateful for?
- What is stressing you out?

### Explore

- What stood out to you from the sermon?
- Read the text twice (Select a portion of this week's text to focus on for your group's discussion.)
- Retell the passage in your own words.

### Examine

- What questions, observations, and thoughts do you have about this passage?
- What does this text say about God, Jesus, and humanity?

### Do It – Either alone or with others in the group.

- If the text is true, what are you sensing God saying to you?
- Write an "I will" statement.
- What does that look like for you?

### Seek God's Kingdom

- **Tell:** Is there someone in your life you can share this text/truth with?
- **Give:** Is there someone in your life that you can serve this week?
- **Pray:** Close in prayer: God, thank You for planting SEEDS in us so we can share those SEEDS with others as we Advance the Kingdom!