



Growth Group Discussion Guide

Passage: Mark 13

Introduction: Jesus speaks to his disciples about the certainty of things to come both in their generation and throughout church history. He prophecies that the Temple would be destroyed within their lifetime and that the age of the church will be marked by tribulation, deception, and a worldwide witness to Jesus. Despite the perplexing nature of Jesus' teaching, this passage is not meant to fuel speculation but to bring comfort and equip us to live faithfully as Jesus' disciples in our generation.

Into the Word

What does Jesus say the disciples should be prepared for? How might this help them in their generation?

Note: Jesus is shifting back and forth between the immediate generation and the generations to come. This is known as “telescoping”. As the End is brought into focus it provides meaning for the immediate context of the disciples.

Why does Jesus specifically revealed that the Temple would be destroyed? What aspects of life do we often assume are permanent or unshakable?

Consider: Verse 31

Note: Titus, son of the emperor Vespasian, led the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 66–70.

How is the “lesson of the fig tree” different than knowing the “day or hour”? What reason does Jesus give for not being more specific? (Consider verses 28-37)

How might seeing periods of tribulation as “birth pains” help us in our generation?

Consider: Romans 8:22-25

Into the Heart

What might our lives look like if we really believed that everything will be shaken?

Consider: 1 Peter 1:24-25

How would our lives change if we really believed that only God knows when the end will come? (v. 32)

Into the World

Can you think of examples of end times speculation? What are the consequence of teaching that fuels speculation?

What might it look like for us to “stay awake” in our generation? How is “staying awake” different than fueling speculation? (v. 35-37)