



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part 2: [re]silience

Icebreaker: What is your favorite display of God's creation as found in nature? (ex: sunrise or sunset, changing of seasons, ocean tides, Sequoia National Forest, animals in the wild, etc.) What lessons about God have you learned from His creations? (Romans 1:20)

1) What is your understanding of "End Times" and what are the main contributors to your understanding? What factors have been most helpful or unhelpful towards your understanding?

2) Read aloud Matthew 24 (*The Olivet Discourse*) as a group. List some of the main observations you see in this passage. What is Jesus' intent in this passage?

3) Jesus immediately follows "The Olivet Discourse" with an interesting parable. Read this parable (Matthew 25:1-13) and discuss its importance, especially in light of what you read earlier. (key: remember what "oil" represents throughout both the Old & New Testaments)

4) "Normal" may never come back ... but Jesus will.
Discuss.

5) How does the following passage encourage you: "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 7:7-8, NLT)

6) The roots of a Sequoia run wide and interlock with the roots of others, forming a resilient bond. See illustration below. How does this principle relate in your own life and even the dynamics of this very group that you are in right now? Take a moment to share how you are thankful for one another.



Personal Challenge: Who in your life needs RENEWAL? Spend some time in your group praying for that person and then share how you will reach out to him/her this week.

[Notice this is the same "Personal Challenge" from last week.
Did you reach out to the one you prayed for then? If so, how did it go? If not, why not?]