



MATTHEW 24:32-35

GETTING STARTED...

Do you find it hard to trust people's words? Real trust is something that is earned, not just given. We don't fully trust people until they have proved themselves to be trustworthy. And in many ways that applies to the Bible as well. If we never saw anything in the Bible come true, no prophecy was confirmed, no verse could be backed up, we would have a very hard time believing it as well. However, for the past two thousand years people have tried to tear down the Bible and found that it is worthy of trust. Jesus reminds his disciples that his words can be trusted because they have seen what he has warned them about come true. From our vantage point then we see the way Jesus' words have come true for thousands of years and we can have incredible trust in the Bible's words.

READ THE TEXT: MATTHEW 24:32-33

³² "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What is the lesson that Jesus wants his disciples to understand from the fig tree? Put it into your own words.
2. What is the connection between vs 34 and vs 35? How does seeing the fulfillment of vs 34 give us greater trust in the words of Jesus?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

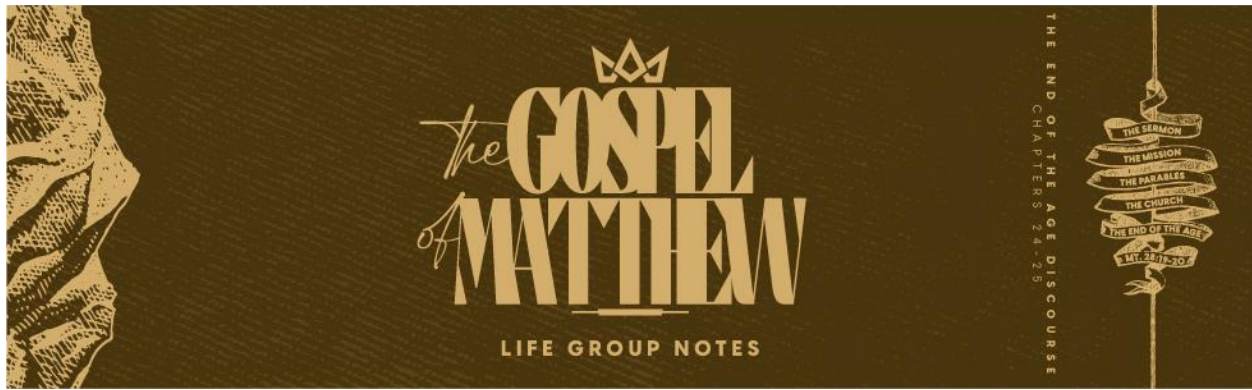
APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

- Agassiz* Why can you be confident in the Word of God? What signs do you see that Jesus' return is imminent? Does your life reflect the kind of urgency that is needed as you wait for "the day of the Lord"? How does Scripture inform the way we ought to live in light of His second coming?
- Chilliwack* In John 8:37 Jesus laments that His word had no room among some of His hearers. What areas of your life do you struggle to make room for Jesus' word or are you most tempted not to take Jesus at His word?
- Harrison/Lake Errock* Have you ever questioned whether Jesus was truly going to return? What did you do with these doubts? How might you briefly make a case for the return of Christ to someone who is not a follower of Jesus?
- Promontory* How does Jesus' return being soon affect how you live your Christian life? What parts of the Bible are hard to believe today? How does Jesus' prophecy coming true help us trust in his words more?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer?
An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*