

## **MATTHEW 24:1-14**

### **GETTING STARTED...**

What is going to happen next? That is the question that we ask when we come to the end of a chapter in a book or the cliffhanger on a TV show. The same is true in our own lives, we would love to be able to know what the future holds for us. The disciples of Jesus were asking the same question. They had seen Jesus enter into Jerusalem with crowds shouting out “Hosanna” and welcoming him in as a King. It wasn’t hard to wonder, what happens next? And Jesus begins to answer their question, but probably not in the way that they expected. They had a very immediate idea of Jesus coming and conquering the Romans. But God’s plans looked different. As Jesus begins to teach them about what the end looks like, he describes wars and tribulation but also gives them a message of hope. The future is in God’s hands, and so our calling is to trust him, don’t panic and continue to share the gospel.

### **READ THE TEXT: MATTHEW 24:1-14**

Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. <sup>2</sup> But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

<sup>3</sup> As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. <sup>10</sup> And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the

one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Familiarize yourself with the context of this section. What are the disciples asking and why are they asking about this now? Consider especially what happens in chapter 21:1-17.
2. Jesus has specifically two commands for his disciples in this passage, what are they? Why does Jesus start answering their questions with these two commands?

## 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/Lake Errock* What was the significance of the Temple in Jerusalem being destroyed in 70AD? What role do prophetic signs play in the life and faith of a Christian?

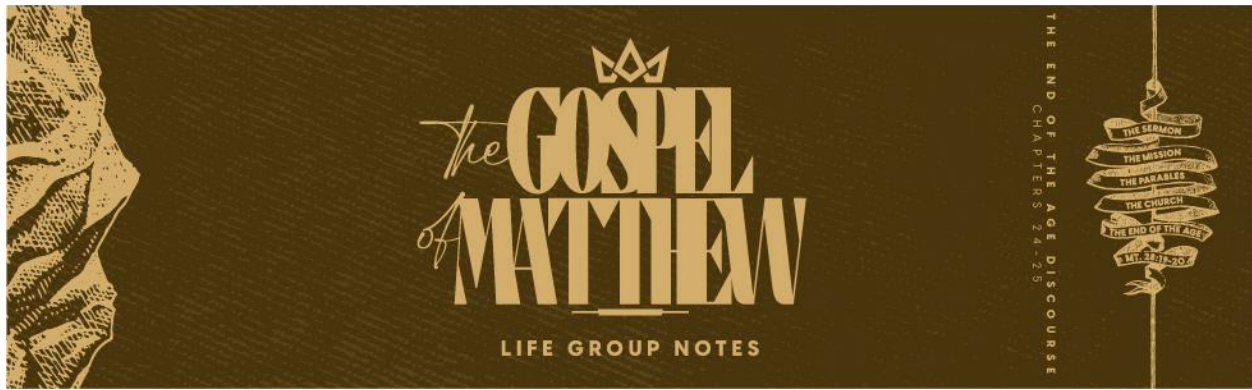
*Chilliwack* Read verse 6. Compare and contrast our natural tendency to “freak out” about major local and global events and even demonize unbelievers and our calling from Jesus in this text to *stay calm* and *preach on*.

*Harrison* Have you ever been forewarned about the suffering of a journey you were about to embark on? How did the warning impact you? As you read Matthew 24:1-14, what effect do Jesus' words have on you? Can you find hope in the promise of verse 13?

*Promontory* In response to what we've learned, how can our lives become more kingdom focused and less distracted by the tribulations in our present world?

## 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*