



MATTHEW 24:15-31

GETTING STARTED...

Would you want to know the future? If you had the option to know what was going to happen, would you actually want it? Would you want to see all the bad things that will happen to you? Would you want to have all the surprises ruined? God in his wisdom doesn't tell us everything that is going to happen, but he does give us glimpses of what the future holds so that we can be prepared. This is what Jesus is doing as he tells his disciples about what is going to be coming up. He gives them instructions but doesn't spell out everything that is going to come up. What he does is give them enough so that they will know how to act and know what to expect. They are to expect trials, even bad ones, but to hold on because Jesus is going to come back!

READ THE TEXT: MATTHEW 24:15-31

¹⁵ "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, ¹⁸ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁹ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! ²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. ²² And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. ²³ Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand. ²⁶ So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸ Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. ²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from

heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. In vs 15, Jesus refers to the prophecy in Daniel 11:31. Read the passage in Daniel. How does Jesus use this prophecy to answer the question the disciples have asked in vs 2-3?
2. Vs 27-28 contain two metaphors for the return of Jesus. What is the point of each metaphor?

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 What steps do you take to ensure spiritual preparedness amidst the uncertainties of the world?"

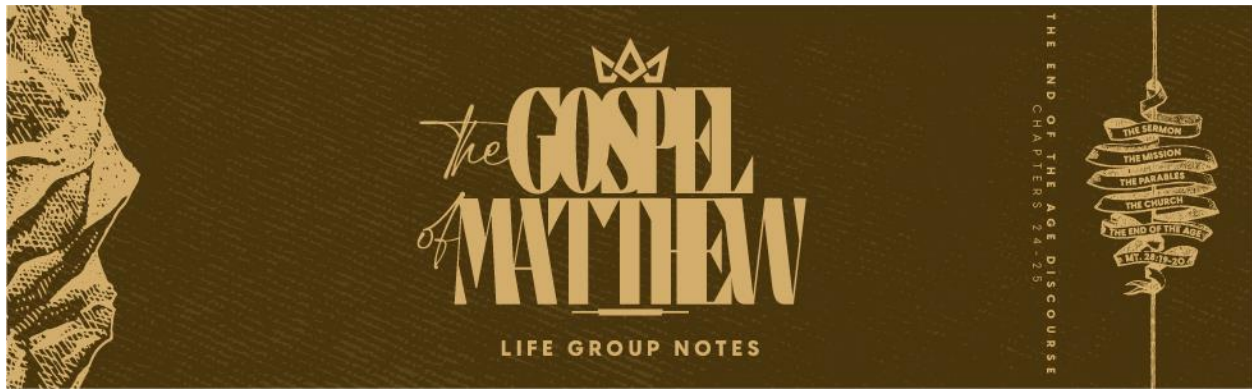
Chilliwack Are you ready for whatever may happen in your life this week or in the next year? Are you prepared for what may happen in the world in the next ten years?

Harrison/Lake Errock In what areas of life do you long for the coming of the Lord Jesus? Where do you feel weak, pressed, and ready to give up? Do you see the Glorious Day of Christ's return as a day of great mourning for those who do not believe? How then are you living in light of that reality? How does the coming Day of the Lord bring hope into your life today? How does it sustain you in times of struggle and strife?

Promontory Which of the warnings of the Bible are you most likely to try and ignore? How does the fulfilled prophecy of Jesus help us better understand the warnings as well as the promises? Are we ready for the return of Jesus?

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*