Discussion Questions

Date: November 1, 2026

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

Sermon Outline

Children of the Light
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

- ***The Lord's return is only a surprise to those in darkness. (5:1-3)***
- The day of the Lord is an expected surprise. (vv. 1-2)
- The day of the Lord is an inescapable reality. (v. 3)
- **Question**: Do you truly believe that God will come and set all things right? How does that impact how you live today?

We are called to live as children of the light. (5:4-11)

- We are to be awake and sober: reading and waiting for the Lord's return. (vv. 4-8)
- We can have assurance that we are saved from the wrath to come. (vv. 9-11)
- **Question**: How are we building up one another in the light of the coming of the Lord?

<u>Bottom Line: The Lord's return should shape our lives today.</u>

Talking Points

- **How often are you expecting the surprise of the Lord's return?**
- **Go around the room and ask everyone to share their reactions to the reality of Christ's return.**
- **How can you remind yourself this week that Jesus will return and put everything right?**
- **Does the reality of the Lord's return and God's judgment shape how you interact with evil and injustice?**
- **What does it mean to you to be ready and waiting for the Lord's return?**
- **Your assurance of being saved from the wrath to come should lead you to desiring others to be saved. How can you talk about the gift of Jesus this week to unbelievers?**
- **Close in prayer confessing where your lives are not shaped by the return of Jesus and thanking God for all the salvation that He is bringing.**

Understanding Scripture

1. **Read the passage aloud.**
   - Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
   - Question: What was God's desire for them?
2. **Reread key verse(s) aloud.**
   - Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
   - Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?
3. **Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.**
   - Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
   - Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
   - If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.
4. **Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")**
   - Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
   - Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Prayer Requests