



“The Great “Why””
Looking for Jesus Sermon Series #1 Overview
Matthew 24:1-6
Daniel 9:20-27
Cross Community Church, Savannah, Ga.
July 12, 2026
5 Day Devotional and Discussion Questions

5-Day Devotional: Living Without Alarm in Uncertain Times

Day 1: The Power of Prayer in Anxious Moments

Reading: Daniel 9:20-23

Devotional:

Daniel's anxious heart found immediate response when he turned to God in prayer and confession. Notice the remarkable truth: "At the beginning of your pleas for mercy, a word went out." God didn't wait for Daniel to finish his eloquent prayer—He responded at the

very start. When anxiety grips your soul and alarm threatens your peace, remember that God is already moving before you finish speaking. Your confession doesn't have to be perfect or polished. The moment you turn toward God with a humble heart, He is already working on your behalf. Today, whatever burden weighs on you, bring it to God in honest prayer. He's not waiting for you to get it right; He's waiting to meet you in your vulnerability.

Reflection Question: What anxieties have you been carrying alone instead of bringing to God in prayer?

Day 2: Christ Our Foundation in Shaking Times

Reading: Matthew 7:24-27

Devotional:

Jesus taught that storms will come to everyone—the rain falls on both the wise and foolish builder. The difference isn't in avoiding the storm but in what foundation you've built upon. When Jesus speaks of the end times in Matthew 24-25, His first instruction is "see that you are not alarmed." How can we remain unshaken when everything around us trembles? By building our lives on the solid rock of Christ. The storms reveal what we're truly standing on. If your foundation is circumstances, comfort, or control, you'll be swept away. But if Christ is your firm foundation, you can sing with confidence even in chaos. The question isn't whether difficulty will come, but whether you'll stand firm when it does.

Reflection Question: What areas of your life are built on something other than Christ?

Day 3: The Great Why—Understanding God's Purposes

Reading: Daniel 9:24-27

Devotional:

God gave Daniel six purposes for why redemptive history must unfold as it does: to finish transgression, put an end to sin, atone for iniquity, bring everlasting righteousness, seal vision and prophet, and anoint the most holy place. Three deal with removing sin's curse; three with establishing eternal blessing. When you understand the "why" behind God's plan, the "what" and "when" become less alarming. Jesus came the first time to finish transgression, end sin's power, and atone for iniquity. He will return to complete the remaining three purposes. You're living between promise and fulfillment, between "already" and "not yet." This isn't uncertainty—it's divine purpose unfolding. When life feels chaotic, return to the "why": God is working to restore all things through Christ.

Reflection Question: How does knowing God's ultimate purposes change your perspective on current difficulties?

Day 4: Do Not Be Led Astray

Reading: Matthew 24:3-14

Devotional:

Jesus' first warning about the end times wasn't about dates or signs—it was about deception. "See that no one leads you astray." In every generation, voices arise claiming special revelation, new truth, or exclusive insight. But if we needed to know something beyond Scripture, God would have included it. The antidote to being led astray is simple: know the Word, know the Savior, and be satisfied with what God has revealed. When someone compares themselves to Christ or claims to speak for God apart from Scripture, spiritual alarm bells should sound. The same Jesus who warned about false messiahs also promised to guide us by His Spirit and Word. You don't need new revelation; you need deeper relationship with the One who is the Truth.

Reflection Question: What voices are you listening to besides Scripture, and how do they align with God's revealed Word?

Day 5: Assured in Every Season

Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3

Devotional:

"Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith"—this is our anchor in every storm. Jesus endured the cross "for the joy set before Him," seeing beyond present suffering to eternal glory. If you can trust God with your salvation, you can trust Him with your future. The same God who rescued you from sin's penalty is faithful to complete what He started. You don't have to be alarmed about tomorrow because you know who holds tomorrow. You don't have to fear the unknown because you know the One who knows all things. As you face this week, this month, this season of uncertainty, fix your eyes on Jesus. He has never failed you, He has been faithful through generations, so why would He fail now? He won't. Build your life on this assurance.

Reflection Question: In what specific area do you need to transfer your gaze from your circumstances to Jesus today?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the founder and perfecter of our faith. When we are anxious and alarmed, remind us to look to You. Help us build our lives on the solid foundation of Your Word and Your character. May we not be led astray by voices that contradict Scripture, but instead find our assurance in Your unchanging promises. We trust You with our past, present, and future. In Your name, Amen.

Discussion Questions

Pastor Kevin emphasizes knowing your personal 'why' or purpose statement. Have you identified why God gave you life, and how does that purpose shape your daily decisions and interactions?

Jesus instructs his disciples not to be 'led astray' or 'alarmed' about end times events. What specific fears or anxieties about the future do you need to surrender to God's sovereignty?

Daniel's prayer life demonstrates that God responds at the very beginning of our pleas for mercy. How does this truth change the way you approach prayer, especially during seasons of anxiety or confusion?

The sermon identifies six purposes for end times events—three dealing with removing sin and three providing future blessings. How does understanding God's 'why' behind judgment and restoration affect your view of His character?

We are living in the 'parentheses' or gap between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel's prophecy. How should Christians live during this in-between time while waiting for Christ's return?

Pastor Kevin warns against being led astray by those who compare themselves to Christ or allow such comparisons. What are practical ways to discern false teaching and remain grounded in Scripture?

The message states that 'if you can trust God with your salvation, you can trust Him with your future.' What areas of your future are you struggling to trust God with, and why?

Daniel confessed not only his own sins but also the sins of his nation. How might corporate confession and repentance for our communities and nation be part of our prayer lives today?

Jesus came to 'finish the transgression,' 'put an end to sin,' and 'atone for iniquity.' How does meditating on these completed works of Christ's first coming give you confidence about His second coming?

The sermon emphasizes being 'awake, alert, and assured' rather than alarmed. What spiritual disciplines or practices help you maintain this posture of readiness without falling into fear or complacency?

Small Group Guide: The Great Why

Looking for Jesus Series - Week 1

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: What's one thing that happened this past week that made you anxious or alarmed? How did you respond?

Introduction

This week Pastor Kevin launched a new series on the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24-25), focusing on the "why" behind end times prophecy rather than getting lost in debates about the "when," "what," or "who." The key message: We don't have to be alarmed about the future because God is working and will have the last word.

Key Scripture Passages

- Matthew 24:1-5
 - Daniel 9:20-27
 - Hebrews 12:2
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. **The Power of "Why"**
 - Pastor Kevin emphasized knowing your personal "why" - your purpose statement. Do you have a personal purpose statement? If so, what is it? If not, what might it be?
 - How does knowing your purpose change the way you live day-to-day?
2. **Jesus' Two Commands**
 - Jesus tells us to "not be led astray" and "don't be alarmed" (Matthew 24:4-6). Which of these two warnings do you find yourself needing most right now? Why?
 - What are some ways Christians today are being led astray when it comes to end times teaching?
3. **Daniel's Response**
 - When Daniel was alarmed and anxious about his visions, he responded with confession, repentance, and prayer (Daniel 9:20-23). What can we learn from his example?
 - The sermon noted that "at the beginning of his plea for mercy, God was already responding." How does this truth encourage you in your prayer life?

Going Deeper

4. **The Six Purposes of End Times Events**
 - Review the six purposes mentioned in Daniel 9:24:
 - **Already accomplished:** Finish transgression, put an end to sin, atone for iniquity
 - **Yet to come:** Bring everlasting righteousness, seal vision and prophet, anoint the most holy place

Which of these gives you the most comfort? Why?

5. Living in the "Parentheses"

- The sermon explained that we're living between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel's prophecy - in the "gap" or "parentheses." How does understanding this timeline affect your perspective on current events?
- What does it mean practically to live in the "already but not yet" of God's kingdom?

6. Trust and Assurance

- The main idea: "We do not have to be alarmed about the brokenness and chaos of the world because we are assured that God is still working and He will have the last word."
 - How does trusting God with your past (salvation) help you trust Him with your future? Share an example from your life.
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Key Takeaways

1. **Prayer is powerful** - When we pray and confess, God is already at work, just as He was with Daniel
 2. **Don't get lost in the details** - Focus on the "why" rather than arguing about different end times views
 3. **We can be assured, not alarmed** - Because we know who holds the future
 4. **Jesus is our lifeline** - Hold onto His words as we navigate uncertain times
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Practical Applications

This Week's Action Steps:

Personal Reflection:

- Write out your personal purpose statement: "I exist to _____"
- Spend time this week reading Daniel 9 in its entirety for context

Prayer Practice:

- When you feel anxious or alarmed this week, follow Daniel's example:
 1. Confess your sins
 2. Confess on behalf of your community/nation
 3. Present your plea to God
 4. Trust that He is already at work

Scripture Memory: Choose one of these verses to memorize this week:

- Matthew 24:6 - "See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet."
- Hebrews 12:2 - "Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith..."

Group Challenge:

- Discuss: What current events or future concerns are causing anxiety in your life?
 - Commit to praying for one another about these specific concerns
 - Share next week how God gave you peace or perspective
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Looking Ahead

Next week we'll continue in the Olivet Discourse, examining the specific signs and events Jesus described. Come prepared by:

- Reading Matthew 24-25 in one sitting
 - Noting any questions you have
 - Praying for an open heart to hear what Jesus wants to teach us
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Closing Prayer Points

- Thank God that He is the Lord of Hosts who is with us
 - Pray for those who don't yet know Jesus as Savior
 - Ask God to help us not be led astray or alarmed
 - Pray for our nation and world, confessing our need for God
 - Request that God would give us assurance and peace about the future
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Additional Resources

- **Four Views of the End Times** chart (available at church next week)
 - **Book recommendation:** "Charting the Bible Chronologically" for those interested in timelines and deeper study
 - Encourage group members to stay engaged with the sermon series over the coming weeks
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"The two most important days in your life: the day you were born and the day you figured out why."