

GATHERING INSIGHTS

SERIES: **The Gospel According to Mark**

TITLE: **Be Ready**

BIG IDEA: Jesus told us that to prepare for the end days we must be grounded in the truth, guard against the enemy and ready to grieve as Christ love comes crashing down upon his return.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Read Mark 13:2

Jesus predicted the destruction of the seemingly indestructible temple, reminding us that nothing in this world lasts forever. What things in your life have you treated as permanent or immovable that God might be calling you to hold more loosely?

Read Mark 13:5-8

The sermon warns against spiritual laziness caused by having so much comfort and prosperity. In what specific ways has your abundance or comfort potentially weakened your spiritual disciplines or readiness for Christ's return?

Read Mark 13:9-10

What does it look like to be on guard for Christ return?

What role do you believe you personally play in this Great Commission, and how are you actively participating in reaching those who have not heard?

Read Mark 13:11-13

Jesus told His disciples not to be anxious but to trust the Holy Spirit to give them words when facing trials. How well do you trust the Holy Spirit in difficult moments, and what practices help you cultivate that dependence?

GROWING IN CHRIST

Knowing that we are closer to Christ's return today than yesterday, what changes in your priorities, relationships would reflect a life lived with the end in mind?

The message states that we must practice sacrifice and service now to be prepared for darker days ahead. What sacrifices is God calling you to make today that would strengthen your faith for future challenges?

LIVING AS A FAMILY

How does this global reality of persecution challenge or change your perspective on what you consider suffering in your daily life?

Jesus warned that His followers would be hated and face persecution for His name's sake. In what ways have you experienced or witnessed opposition for living out your faith, even in subtle forms within your own community or family?

SHARING THE GOSPEL

When the world is in chaos, how does this impact our ability to share the gospel? What is your response if a non believer ask: Does this mean this is the end of the world?

When we pick up our cross and follow Jesus, how does this benefit those who may not be believers or give us a better opportunity to serve the hurting and broken in our community?