

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have you ever had to stay ready for something important, like waiting for a baby to be born or being “on call” at work, not knowing exactly when it would happen? How did that waiting affect the way you prepared or responded?”

Jesus’ parable of the ten virgins (**Matt 25:1–13**) shows the difference between being prepared and unprepared. What does it look like to keep your “lamp burning” spiritually? What habits help you stay ready for Christ’s return?

Jesus says His return will be like a thief in the night (**Matt 24:42–44**). How does the unknown timing reveal what you truly trust? If He came today, where would you want to be found faithful? What actions or habits demonstrate that faithfulness?

If the timing is unknown, what does it look like to stay spiritually “dressed for action”? How does **Luke 12:35-48** call us to live out our mission rather than wait passively?

Each servant was entrusted with resources while the master was away (**Matthew 25:14–30**). How does this parable challenge your use of time, talents, and opportunities in light of Christ’s return? What would it look like to actively invest in the Kingdom now rather than waiting for later?

If you were to “invest your talents” (**Matthew 25:14–30**) in a fresh way right now, what is one practical action you could take to serve someone, encourage someone, or advance God’s Kingdom? How will you follow through?

How does Paul’s call to live in the light of Christ, knowing that “salvation is nearer now than when we first believed,” change the way you approach daily life? In what ways can you actively demonstrate putting on Christ in your routines, interactions, and decisions?

GOING FURTHER

MEMORIZE:

Romans 13:11

“Besides this you know the time that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. “

NOTES FOR GROUP LEADERS:

SUGGESTED GROUP FLOW *(based on 60-75 min group meeting)*

Catch Up → Announcements → Read & Discuss Passage → Group Discussion → Prayer
5-10 min 2-3 min 10-15 min 30-40 min 15-20 min

NOTE FOR LEADER:

As we study the book of Mark, consider taking the following approach to help your group gain a greater understanding of the book, as well as apply the lessons from it. **FIRST**, read the passage from Mark (see top of previous page) aloud as a group. **SECOND**, spend some time discussing the passage. What stood out or what did you notice? What questions did you have about what you read? **THIRD**, discuss the sermon from the weekend. Was there anything that you learned, confused you, or stood out to you? **LAST**, spend some time going through the discussion questions below.

If there are no group announcements listed, take a few minutes to visit obcc.church/events to see what's coming up. Pay attention to baptism dates, next step classes, or events your group can attend together.