

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Can you think of a time when someone's words or actions seemed trustworthy but turned-out misleading? How did you discern the truth?

Mark 13:5–6 and 1 John 4:1 warn us to “see that no one leads you astray” and to “test the spirits.” How can we discern between teachings or leaders that are faithful to Jesus and those that might mislead us today? Can you give examples of ways Scripture guides us in making these distinctions?

Hebrews 12:1–2 calls us to lay aside every weight and run with endurance, keeping our eyes on Jesus. How can you practically let go of distractions like news of wars, famines, or speculation about the end times so that your focus and energy are directed toward following Him faithfully?

Psalms 46 describes chaos earthquakes, roaring waters, trembling mountains, and raging nations but calls us to trust God's presence and power. How can reflecting on this Psalm help you stay steadfast and focused on Him when the world feels uncertain or “end-times” news surrounds you?

The book of Revelation shows both judgment and restoration. How can seeing God's ultimate goal of renewal instead of destruction help us live with hope and focus on His mission today?

2 Timothy 3:1–5 warns that people will be lovers of self, money, and pleasure. What steps can we take to avoid being pulled into worldly distractions and remain focused on God's mission?

Are there news sources, social media feeds, or media outlets that consistently pull your attention away from Christ and stir fear or speculation about the end times? What practical steps can you take this week to intentionally filter, limit, or replace these distractions with Scripture, prayer, and mission-focused action?

GOING FURTHER

MEMORIZE:

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

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.