



**War and Rumors of War****MY STORY**

1. When you think of the stress you have been under the past couple of years, what kind of toll do you see it having on you? Mental, emotional, spiritual, physical?
2. When you think of current events, what comes to mind? Do you feel hopeful or discouraged or some mix of the two?
3. Where have you seen a shift in sentiment from a Christian culture to a post-Christian one? How have you seen this affect your children if you're a parent? How do you see it impacting your circle of friends?
4. When you read Matthew 24:10-11, what do you think? Do you have a personal reaction to those verses?
5. Why does the increase of wickedness cause most love to grow cold? How have you seen this?
6. What does living on mission mean to you?

**DIGGING DEEPER**

*Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.*

**Read Matthew 24:6-14, Philippians 4:6, Matthew 6:25-34, Romans 8:18, and 2 Corinthians 4:17-18**

1. In Philippians 4:6, Paul says do not be anxious about anything. In light of current events, how can someone not be anxious about anything?
2. When Jesus says such things MUST happen (Matthew 24:6), does that assurance help you feel relieved? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think Jesus uses the analogy comparing war, natural disasters, famine, etc., to birth pains?

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4. Chris said we think of time in months, and God thinks of time in centuries. How does that concept change your perspective in light of these passages?
5. Now read Matthew 6:25-34. What does Jesus say to you in this passage concerning your worries?
6. In Romans 8:18, what is the glory that will be revealed in us? Why are our present sufferings not worth comparing to that glory?
7. How does 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 relate to the rest of these passages? What "seen things" are you tempted to fix your eyes on? What are the "unseen things" you should fix your eyes on instead?
8. What takeaway are you left with when you consider ALL of these passages?

## BRINGING IT HOME

1. How can you/are you putting your hope in God's kingdom rather than this world (your kingdom)?
2. How does it make you feel when Jesus tells us we'll be persecuted and put to death?
3. What trials or sufferings are you facing right now, or have you faced recently?
4. When you face a trial, how do you view it? What do you do in light of that trial or suffering?
5. What does it mean to live on God's timeline and not your own? How are you doing with this?
6. What specifically are you doing, or can you be doing to ensure you are on God's side? How are you doing with these?
7. What does it mean to "live and love well"?
8. What (specifically) are you doing to make sure the love you have for others doesn't grow cold? What fruit do you see this bearing in your life and around you?

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9. What does your heart have to do with your hope? How are they related?
10. In Matthew 24:13, Jesus says, "but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved." When you read this, what comes to mind? What specifically are you doing to stand firm?
11. What would it take for you to face a trial or suffering with resolve and confidence rather than fear or dread?
12. If you are currently facing a trial or suffering or recently passed through one, what specific scriptures is God using to speak to you and encourage you?
13. Are you living on mission? How? What specifically are you doing "on mission"? What can you be doing more or less to live on mission?
14. How have you seen living on mission impact your fear, anxiety, stress, worry, etc.?
15. If you're doing pretty well with all of this, how are you teaching others to face trials, live and love well, live on mission, etc., so they can experience that same peace and freedom in Christ? If you're not mentoring and teaching others about the freedom and peace Jesus gives us in spite of the world around us, why not? How will you start?
16. If you don't know Jesus yet as your Savior and Lord, what is holding you back from asking Him into your life? If you're in a Life Group, talk about this with your group or group leader. If you're not in a Life Group, speak with a Prayer Team member or contact the church.

**Your Next Steps are:** **1)** Memorize Philippians 4:6. **2)** If you're struggling with fear, anxiety, stress, worry, etc., please get prayer. God answers prayer and wants you to experience His freedom in Christ. Also, we have ministries at the church that can walk with you in this. **3)** If you're a follower of Jesus, but you haven't been baptized yet, sign up to be baptized today: [vineyardwheeling.com](http://vineyardwheeling.com) **4)** Jesus calls us to be on mission, which includes serving others. We have multiple serving opportunities coming up from preparing our new children's place to volunteering to bring the message of Jesus to kids of our community by helping with our annual egg hunt. You may sign up for both at [vineyardwheeling.com](http://vineyardwheeling.com). *(All sign-ups are on the main page of the website.)*