



Ready for Jesus' Return

Discussion Guide | August 23rd, 2020

Before you begin, please read Matthew 25:1-13

1. What are some popular ideas for how the world ends (or what the future holds) in the culture around us? (Think about what you see in TV and movies, or what you've heard from others.)
2. What questions do you have about "the end of the world as we know it"? Are these questions on your mind often, or is this something new for you think about?
3. Why is it important to think about eternity and the future toward which God is moving?
4. As a group, identify 3-5 big truths that the Bible says about "the end of the world as we know it." (The formal word for this is eschatology – the study of the end times.) As much as you can, use Scripture to support what you say.
5. Parables are vivid stories that drive home one primary point. In your own words, briefly summarize what Jesus says about His return – and what that means for His followers – in Matthew 25:1-13.
6. What distinguishes the foolish virgins (think "bridesmaids") from the wise ones?
7. What are the consequences of the lack of preparedness by the foolish bridesmaids? What does this point to, and how does that highlight the importance of preparedness for Jesus' return?
8. Below you'll see five ways to demonstrate readiness for Jesus' return. Look up the Scripture reference accompanying each, and explain what it means in your own words. (Focus your attention on what these passages say about your own readiness. Don't get too bogged down in questions or speculation.)
 - Know Jesus | Matthew 7:21-23
 - Pursue personal holiness and godliness | 2 Peter 3:10-14
 - Encourage others in community | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, 11 AND Hebrews 10:24-25
 - Persevere with confidence | 1 Corinthians 15:58
 - Stand out by your hope | 1 Peter 3:15
9. Are there other ways to demonstrate readiness for Jesus' return that should be mentioned?
10. Choose 1 or 2 of these "5 Ways to Demonstrate Readiness" for Jesus' return. What might it look like for you to practically apply this in your life today, and this coming week?