



Week of November 18, 2018

Mark 13:1-8

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!"

² Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately,

⁴ "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?"

⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray.

⁶ Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray.

⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come.

⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. Tell a story about a time when a potential situation that you feared turned out to be something wonderful?
- B. Do you prefer a living area that is full or one that has lots of open space?

Bible Study Questions:

1. Herod began construction of the third Temple in 20 BCE; it was finished in 63 CE, and destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE at the end of the Jewish revolt. It was still under construction in Jesus' day. The stones were some 35 feet long x 18 feet wide x 12 feet high. What is the most impressive religious building you've ever seen? How did being in its presence make you feel about your relationship with God?
2. In verse 6, the phrase translated as "I am he" is simply "I am" in the Greek. Does that change the meaning for you?
3. In verse 6, the phrase "in my name" means under Jesus' authority, not necessarily claiming to be Jesus. How does this change the nature of the warning about false leaders?
4. "Birth pangs" is a frequently used metaphor for the coming of the end times. Yet labor is both a scary time (especially back then!) and a hopeful time. When you think of the end times, is that a scary time (tribulation) or a hopeful time (the return of Christ)?
5. If you learned the end times were coming soon and you could ask Jesus three questions about it, what would they be?
6. Where is your life being constrained by "inside-the-box" thinking? What can you do to think of ways to stretch yourself?
7. In what specific areas might God be calling you to exceed the limits you've lived within?

Closing prayer: particularly invite people to pray about an area where they need to be more daring or creative.