



Week of December 2, 2018

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees;

³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly,

³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Note:

The phrase "this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place" sparks a lot of controversy because obviously this did not happen in a literal sense. There are two explanations commonly given: 1) that "generation" is a word that means "era", and an "era" could be something as broad as "the age of evangelism" or 2) that the return of Christ being referred to here was actually the resurrection, and that ever since the resurrection we have been in the midst of the ushering in of the kingdom.



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. What once seemed impossible to you but became possible?
- B. Are you an optimist or a pessimist? Why?

Bible Study Questions:

1. What signs do you see of God's active presence in your life?
2. Verse 28 says that when these things happen, you, as believers, should "stand up and raise your heads" rather than be scared. To what extent has your faith emboldened you?
3. In verse 34, Jesus speaks of not being weighed down by "dissipation and drunkenness" *nor* by the "worries of this life." Do you tend to worry too much about problems, or ignore them and procrastinate in the hope they'll just go away?
4. What distracts you from your faith?
5. During tough times, what gives you confidence?
6. What is your nightmare scenario, and how would faith help you deal with your fear of it?
7. Advent is a season of expectant waiting. How alert are you for the coming of Christ? What do you believe about the Second Coming?
8. The theme of the first week of Advent is hope. What does hope mean to you? What are signs of hope that you look for?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers of/for hope.