

Week of November 29, 2020

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.

²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

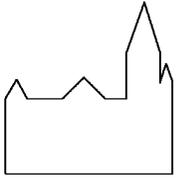
³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

³⁵ Therefore, keep awake-- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,

³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."



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 were you afraid of most when you were a little child? Are you still afraid of it? If not, when did that change?
- B. What is the grossest thing you ever did (such as, say, swallowing a goldfish)? Why did you do it and how were you able to do it?

Bible Study Questions:

- 1. In verse 31, what do you think it means for heaven and earth to "pass away"?
- 2. Signs of the end mentioned in the Bible (such as earthquakes and famine) are *always* present with us. How are you supposed to recognize the true signs?
- 3. In verses 35-37, what do you think it means to be "awake" as opposed to being "asleep" when Jesus returns?
- 4. Tell a specific story of a time when you believe God was actively working in your life.
- 5. What fears keep you from doing more with your life?
- 6. How/where do you look for the presence of Jesus? How do you most often perceive Jesus – as a coach, a companion, a rescuer, or something else?
- 7. In verse 37, the Greek word translated as "awake" has a secondary meaning of being fully "alive". When do you feel "fully alive"? What could you do to feel more "alive"?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about ways in which each person can more readily be guided by Jesus.