

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 19, 2009

Passage: Luke 21:5-38

Memory Passage: 1 Timothy 4:16

**Sunday School Question:** *From your study this week, what is one thing that God spoke to you that convicted or encouraged you?*

### DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 21:5-11.** What is Jesus responding to in verse 6 and why does He respond this way? How do we fall into that same trap?
- (b) Why does Jesus respond with a warning instead of direct answer in verse 8? What two things does Jesus say will not be signs that the end is near? What does this say about people who claim to know that the end is near?
- (c) What two things will begin to fall apart as we approach the end? What does verse 9 say about the suddenness of the end? Why does Jesus tell us not to fear?
- (d) *Think about it:* What are the two purposes for Jesus telling His disciples about the end times? Two temptations that people fall into when talking about the end times is to set out to predict when it is going to happen or to be worried that it is going to happen at all. How does Jesus address this and do you fall into either of these categories?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 21:5-6. Talk about what sparked Jesus' reply. What is Jesus saying about admiring too closely the things of this world? What is the tendency for us to be awed by this world? As a family, what are things that you are enamored by in this world? Is there anything as a family that you need to see with an eternal perspective? Pray about this and ask God to show how your family might need to shift their perspective.

### DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 21:12-19.** What shift does Jesus make in verse 12? What does Jesus promise will happen? How quickly does this begin to happen (Acts 5:17)?
- (b) What different things does Jesus prophesy will happen? Scan through Acts and write down an occurrence that each one of these comes through.
- (c) Jesus says not to “prepare before hand”(NASB) upon how we are to answer. Does this mean that we are not to study and have a defense for our faith when asked (Romans 12:2; 2Timothy 2:15; 1Peter 1:13)? If so, what does Paul and Peter mean in these verses? If not, what might Jesus mean?
- (d) *Think about it:* Betrayal by friends, relatives, or anyone is hard, if not devastating. What example does Jesus present for us about how to handle betrayal? Do you look to Christ when you feel betrayed? Are Jesus' words sobering or encouraging? Why?
- (e) *Something to do:* Have you ever been betrayed? Do you still have bitterness? Meditate upon what happened to Jesus and how He has forgiven you and was betrayed by a close follower. Ask the Lord to help you to forgive those people and to trust in Him for healing and wholeness.
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 21:12-19. Talk about persecution. Read the story of Peter in Acts 4. Talk about how God spoke through Peter. How does this passage encourage us in sharing our faith with family and friends? Ask God to embolden you as a family to be witnesses to neighbors, family and friends.

### DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 21:20-24.** What is different about the way in which Jesus talks about the destruction of Jerusalem here versus in Matthew 24:15-22 and Mark 13:14-20?
- (b) What would lead you to believe that Luke is talking about something different yet similar to Matthew and Mark? What might Luke be referring to and what might Matthew and Mark be referring to?
- (c) At the end of this passage the statement “until the times of the Gentiles” is given. What does this imply about the duration of Jerusalem's suppression? What might this period of time refer to (Luke 13:34; Acts 3:19-21)? How does Paul allude to this same future purpose for Israel (Romans 11:11-12, 25-26)?
- (d) *Something to (graciously) talk about:* Read Revelation 20:1-10. There are two main views on how the Heavenly kingdom will come. Some read this passage and see a literal 1,000 year period in which “the times of the Gentiles” is ended (Pre-Millennial). While others see this as a general expression of God's rule upon the earth right now in which Satan's influence has been greatly reduced (Amillennial). The former looks at this passage as having a physical fulfillment while the latter sees it as currently spiritual fulfillment. What do you think?

(e) *Family*: Read Luke 21:20-24. Talk about this prediction of the destruction of Jerusalem. In A.D. 70, Jerusalem was destroyed. How do these prophecies of Jesus reinforce your faith in Him? What does “the time of the Gentiles” mean? What hope does it give you that God is willing to come back and restore a people to Himself? How have you seen this play out in your life? Pray that the Lord would allow you to see how patient He is in bringing people back to Him.

#### **DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Luke 21:25-33**. There is a shift here to the nations and to the end. What is the extent of distress and fear that is happening? Put in your own words the description of events that are happening in 25-28. What kind of magnitude of events do you feel? (for more on these verses see Daniel 7:13-18)

(b) What comparison is Jesus making to the nature of the fig tree? Is Jesus referring to all of what He has previously said or only the section immediately preceding this statement? Why?

(c) *Something to talk about*: Verse 32 has very controversial meanings. One way of reading the passage is to say that “generation” refers to “race” meaning the Jewish race (the use of the Greek word in this way is rare and controversial). Another is to say that the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70 and the end times are linked, meaning the disciples experiencing the destruction of the temple is as good as experiencing the end. The last way of reading it is to say that “this generation” is the generation that begins to see the end times, not the generation that Jesus is talking to. What do you think?

(d) *Family*: Read Luke 21:25-33. What will the end times be like? Who is the Son of man and what does Daniel 7:13-18 say about Him and His kingdom? What is encouraging about this passage? Thank God that you do not have to worry about when the end will come and that you would live in light of the reality of that day.

#### **DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Luke 21:34-38**. Jesus gives a final warning. What is the warning? What kind of attitude does Jesus describe concerning His return?

(b) Is anyone excluded from the judgment when it comes? So what does Jesus instruct us to do in light of the imminent nature of the second coming? Why is this important?

(c) *Think about it*: Jesus spent this large section warning and depicting the end and He ends with a call to watch our hearts and to pray. How easy is it for you to allow your heart (passions, emotions, desires) to become caught up in sports, television, money, food, worry, etc.? What is it that steals your heart and distracts you?

(d) *Something to do*: Jesus tells us to protect our heart and pray. What is your prayer life like? Prayer is one of the most important ways we connect to God. Do your prayers look like a long list of things to pray about or do you converse with God? Talking and listening to God is what prayer is. Seek to cultivate prayer in your own life everyday. And take the time to be still before God and listen.

(e) *Family*: Read Luke 21:34-38. What two things does Jesus call us to do? What are things that weigh down your heart and distract your heart from the Gospel? How does prayer affect our heart? How do you pray? Look at (d) and talk about how to cultivate prayer as a family that talks with God.

#### **DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

(a) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week*. What have you learned from this week? Take some time and look up some more information on the different “*something to talk about*.” What do you need to do to be prepared for Christ’s return? Are there things that are weighing your heart down? Plan to share something on Sunday about what God has taught you or convicted you about this week.

**DATE**: April 19, 2009

**PASSAGE**: Luke 21:5-38

***Watching for the Kingdom***  
*“lest...that day come upon you suddenly”*