

Warm Up

How do you prepare for a holiday? What planning do you do for a major life event such as a wedding?

What do you do to prepare for the builders coming to do work in your home or decorate it?

Are you always ready?

Background and context

The Bible is very clear about the return of Jesus. Firstly, He **IS** coming to reign as King. This will be both a comforting and sobering time, depending on what you believe. It will be a day that divides us, one will be taken and one will remain. Secondly, no one knows when it will happen. There is no benefit in excessive focus on the day, nor must we be complacent. We just need to be obedient. Thirdly, it is time to get ready. If we are prepared now for His return, then it will not be a surprise.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Matthew 24: 36-51. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. **Matthew 24** is one of those intriguing passages that causes much debate. What TWO things does Jesus talk about? Why do you think so many Christians obsess over the return of Jesus?
2. **v37-39.** What does it mean "as it was in the days of Noah"? How does this apply to this generation?
3. **v40-41.** What do we learn about the manner of Christ's return? Who is taken? Who is left?
4. **v42-44.** We are told to keep watch. What does this mean for us today? Are we to focus on His return? **v44** tells us to be ready. How do we do this?
5. **v45-51.** Jesus tells a parable. What do you understand to be the message of the parable? What warnings are there in it?
6. If you knew Jesus was returning in the year 2296, how would this affect your Christian life?
7. If you knew Jesus was coming back tomorrow, how would this affect your final day?
8. **Read Romans 1:18-32.** What is it that humans have done that causes the impending judgment?
9. **Read Romans 12.** How, as Christians, do we prepare for the last day?

Discipleship and Application



10. What are the two extremes we need to avoid in our walk with Jesus as we head toward the final day? How do we do this?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.