

**LifeGroup Study**  
**IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT (And I Feel Fine)**  
**What Will It Be Like?**  
**2022-02-27**  
**Leader Notes**

**OVERVIEW:**

Welcome back to our series, “It’s The End of the World as We Know It (And I Feel Fine)! There are key events at the end of the world that are clearly articulated in Scripture and which we must all embrace . . . such as . . . resurrection and judgement. There are also diversities of opinions on how it will all play out. Whatever your view the bottom line is that God wins and everything will be made right. This truth should fill us with confidence and hope.

**ICEBREAKER:** I Thought I Was Confident ...

All of us have experienced a time where we were confident about our ability to pull off a feat, but we ended up tripping over our feet! When I was a teen I remember standing at the top of a ski hill at Collingwood, pretty confident I could make it through those moguls. Then, two minutes later, I was on my back, sliding down the mountain, watching one of my skis flying over my head! **What experience do you look back on and smile at your overconfidence?**

**STUDY:**

1. On Sunday Ken talked about the various views around future resurrection and judgment. He shared that the bottom line is that God wins and everything will be made right. **What most struck you from what Ken said about these things?**

Matthew 24 – Jesus Speaks About the Future.

In Matthew chapter 24, Jesus speaks to his disciples about the future. While we don’t know whether all of what Jesus says about future events in this chapter is about his return at the end of history, there is much we can learn about how to be ready for His coming. As you read through this chapter, think about how the coming return of Jesus impacts your life and ask, **“how should I live in light of Jesus’ immanent return?”**

READ: Matthew 24:1-8

2. In Matthew 24:1-2 Jesus gave an incredible proclamation about the stones in the Temple, “I tell you the truth, they will be completely demolished! Not one stone will be left on top of another!” **How do you think his statement impacted the disciples?**

LEADER NOTE: The sight of the Temple would have been jaw dropping. It was the largest Temple in the world at that time and included some immense stones. One stone uncovered in the western wall is estimated to weigh 600 tonnes. “With its white stones, gold trim and gold-covered roof the Temple complex looked like a snow-covered mountain: in the sun it was a blinding sight.” (Illustrated Bible study notes). With a building as grand as the Temple before them, the disciples likely would have been shocked at Jesus’ proclamation. Yet, Jesus’ prophecy came true in A.D. 70 when the Roman army tore down the Temple stone by stone.

3. In Matthew 24:3, the disciples ask Jesus, “What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?” **How did Jesus respond?**

LEADER NOTE: In verses 4-8, Jesus warns the disciples not to be deceived by imposters or overwhelmed by catastrophes, thinking they signaled a shorter time frame until Jesus’ return. The signs predicted in these verses are not necessarily at the end; rather they are signs prior to the end. (Source: Illustrated Bible study notes). In verse 8, Jesus says, “But all this is just the beginning of the birth pains, with more to come.” Like a mother experiencing her first birth pains, so these events will be just the beginning of intense anguish, with more to come.

4. READ: Matthew 24:9-22

In these verses, Jesus describes the persecution His followers will experience. In vs. 11, He says, “But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” **Why is endurance so important?**

LEADER NOTE: Endurance is faithful allegiance to Jesus despite persecution. Endurance is important because many will fall away under pressure. But the true followers of Jesus will endure because of the power of His Spirit, sustaining them to stay faithful to Him.

In verses 15-22 we read some pretty wild stuff about the appearance of a sacrilegious object in the Temple and about getting out of Dodge! These events are part of what is known as the tribulation, a seven-year period when sin and evil will run rampant in the world. **What significance does this have for us today?**

LEADER NOTE: Although this can make for some pretty exciting (and confusing) reading, the significance is this – we must be ready for Jesus’ return. Even in the midst of these trying times predicted by Jesus, God’s grace and protection over His own will prevail (see vs. 22). Here’s a great reference for those wanting to read up on the tribulation <https://www.gotquestions.org/tribulation.html>

5. READ: Matthew 24:23-41

In verse 27, Jesus says, “For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes.” NLT **What does Jesus want us to understand about his coming?**

LEADER NOTE: Jesus uses the analogy of lightning in this verse to let us know his coming will be obvious. When Jesus returns, his coming will not be a hidden or mysterious thing. His coming will be visible to everyone. No one will have to question whether it is really Him.

In verse 36, Jesus says, “However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.” NLT **Why is this important to keep in mind as we anticipate Jesus’ return?**

LEADER NOTE: Although Jesus tells us about signs of his coming (vs. 29-35) He concludes by saying that no one can know the exact timing of His return. This is important to keep in mind. Jesus has not called us to try to identify the date when He is coming. He has called us to live in faithful anticipation of His return.

#### 6. READ: Matthew 24:42-51 Be Ready for the Lord’s Coming

In verse 44, Jesus says, “You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.” NLT **How do we make sure we are ready for Jesus’ return?**

LEADER NOTE: In verse 42, Jesus says we must keep watch. We are to live in active, energetic, single-minded obedience to Jesus. As we wait, Jesus wants us to be faithful. Jesus emphasized this in the parable of the faithful servant (vs. 45-51)

In Matthew 25, Jesus shares two more parables about being ready for His return. The point of these parables is we are to remain faithful to Him as we await His coming. **What does it mean for you to live faithfully as you anticipate Jesus’ return?**

LEADER NOTE: The two parables in Matthew 25 highlight the importance of being fully ready (Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids) and of investing what He has given us for His kingdom purposes (Parable of the Three Servants). God has given each of us time, talent and treasure to use for Him. 1 John 2:28 reminds us, “And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame.” NLT

## **PRAYER**

This week let's pray for our Celebrate Recovery (CR) Canada ministry.

- Pray for the people that attended the CR Canada Online Conference Feb 26, that God would continue to encourage, strengthen them and guide them in their recovery journey, leading in CR and starting new groups.
- Grateful to have all 10 Provinces registered for the Get Connected CR Canada Online Conference; French interpretation, 20 from Cambodia and 8 other countries! Praising God. Thankful to God for the team that made it happen and every person in attendance.
- Pray for continued unity in the team across Canada and that God would provide for those looking for groups, where there currently aren't any.