LifeGroup Study IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT (And I Feel Fine) What's Next? 2022-03-06 Participant 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 help us understand in broad ways WHAT'S NEXT. On Sunday we looked at a number of things like the millennium, the rapture, the second coming, the resurrection, the judgment, eternity and so on. We covered a lot of ground. The point was to help us understand a little bit better WHAT'S NEXT on the prophetic calendar. The ultimate goal is not that we have some kind of prophetic chart memorized but rather that we live our lives today with the confidence that God is large and in charge, that ultimately Jesus wins and that we need to be patient and ready for the return of Jesus.

ICEBREAKER: That Was Different Than I Expected!

You know what it's like to anticipate how you will experience an event, but when you show up, it's different that you anticipated. For example, perhaps the first time you came to church, you thought, "this is going to be boring" but it was different than you expected. What experience have you had recently where you would say, "That was different than I expected!" **Share your story with the group.**

STUDY:

- On Sunday Ken taught the various viewpoints around what to expect in the future in terms of the return of Jesus, the millennium, the resurrection, judgment and eternity. There was a lot of material covered. A key study on Sunday was the various views of the Millennium. Let's have a quiz!
 - a. What does the word millennium mean?
 - b. How many different views of the millennium did Ken share on Sunday?
 - c. What were those three views called?
 - d. Describe the amillennial view.
 - e. Describe the postmillennial view.
 - f. Describe the premillennial view.
 - g. Which view do you embrace?
 - h. What questions do you have about what was shared on Sunday? Perhaps we can get some answers for you.

As we study the Scriptures that speak about end times, we see there is a room for a variety of interpretations for how and when these events unfold. Through our study of end times Scriptures, we can be encouraged by the truth that God is in control. We know the end of the story – God wins and we will be with Him forever. Our responsibility in the meantime is to live our lives to honour King Jesus.

The Bible teaches that there will be a series of resurrections, some to eternal life in heaven and some to damnation. As you read these resurrection and judgment passages, ask yourself, "How should I live in light of the future resurrection and judgement?"

2. READ: Daniel 12:2

"Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace." NLT

This verse in Daniel teaches us the resurrection will not be the same for all people. Daniel identifies two distinct groups – some who will rise to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. How might these two groups be distinguished?

- 3. READ: John 5:25-29
- What does Jesus say in this passage about future resurrections?

The First Great Resurrection

The first great resurrection will occur at the time of the rapture. This is the future event when all those who have placed their trust in Jesus Christ will be raised to life with Him to meet Him in the air.

4. READ: John 14:1-3

In vs. 1 Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me."

- How do Jesus' words encourage you as you look forward to a future resurrection?"
- 5. READ: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

In vs. 13 Paul says he wants us to know what happens to believers in Jesus who have died. The reason, he says, is so "you will not grieve like people who have no hope."

- How does our hope in Jesus impact how we grieve for a follower of Jesus who dies?
- When Jesus returns at the rapture what will happen to believers who have died? (vs. 14)

The Resurrection at Jesus' Second Coming

Another great resurrection will occur when Jesus returns a second time after the Tribulation. At this time, everyone who comes to faith during the Tribulation will be raised to life to be with Him.

6. READ: Revelation 20:1-6

In these verses we read of a second great resurrection of believers, many who are killed for their faith during the tribulation. Verse 6 speaks of the confidence we have that these believers will be united with Christ. **How does this verse encourage you?**

7. READ: Job 19:25-27

Job and other Old Testament believers in God anticipated they would one day be resurrected to be with Him. **How could they have this hope?**

Future Judgments

Believer's Judgement – The Lamb's Book of Life

- 8. READ: Romans 14:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:10
- What do we learn from these verses about who will be at this judgment and what the outcome will be?

Unbeliever's Judgment - The Great White Throne

- 9. READ: Revelation 20:11-15
- What do we learn in these verses about who will be judged at this time and what the outcome will be?

10. READ 2 Corinthians 15:51-58

These verses are a wonderful reminder to us that in the end God will make everything right and we will be with Him in heaven forever. How do these words encourage you to live for Jesus?

PRAYER

This week let's pray for our Kids Ministry at Creekside.

- As restrictions are lifted, pray we are able to grow our volunteer team as families return to in-person church.
- Pray for outreach opportunities as we plan to re-open playground ministry to community families.
- Pray that our programs are effective in helping kids Follow Jesus, Love God, Love People.