



SERMON STUDY GUIDE
For the sermon preached on
6/28/2020:
“Is This the End of the World?”
2 Peter 3:1-18

How to use the Study Guide During Our “Stay at Home” Online Group Meetings

Group life is even more critical during this incredible season. Over and over, group leaders are reporting that suddenly, there is a new hunger to connect, share, pray, and meditate on Scripture together and so we are making these guides available weekly and suggesting a new format during this season.

As you know, our Group Life’s vision is to “practice the way of Jesus.” And while Jesus never had to lead a Torah study over Zoom, he was strategic in his teaching ministry, and we want to be as well.

There are a number of differences between meeting in person and meeting online, ranging from the obvious to the subtle. One is, given our attention spans for online meetings, we want to encourage you to limit the length of your call between 45-60 minutes and we are calling this “Check-In Plus One.” Meaning, spend a few minutes checking in with your group and see if there are any new needs with them (or even amongst their neighbors). “The One” is to spend time in study. As our Stay at Home continues, our desire for meaningful content and interaction will grow. Given our new format, the study guides based on Sunday’s Sermon will be designed to be more application based (as opposed to unpacking the text with the Inductive Bible Study method). You might consider sharing the passage beforehand with your group in hopes that they might spend more time with the Scripture before the gathering.

As always, we are so grateful for you, your gifting, your servant leadership, and all that you do in practicing the way of Jesus in community.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tim, on behalf of the Group Life Team

For the Leader: “Check-In Plus One”

Welcome everyone to the Zoom call and outline the goal of this call being 45 minutes. Spend 15-20 minutes checking in with one another, then move into a time of prayer, and then spend some time discussing the application of the Scripture passage.

A “Check-in” question might be, “How are you doing, and is there anything new that has arisen

in your life or in your neighborhood that we can pray about?”

For the Group:

As mentioned, throughout our Stay at Home quarantine, we have shortened our study, given the confinements and attention spans on Zoom calls. So these three questions are designed to be less inductive, and more practical. Let's get started.

This is the eighth and final week in our “What Now” series, and Pastor Bryan preached a message called “Is This the End of the World?”

Q – 2 Peter 3:8-9 urges us: “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

- Have you experienced a season of waiting in your life when it felt like God was “slow concerning his promise”?
- What spiritual counsel would you offer to someone who is waiting on God right now?

Q – In the sermon, Pastor Bryan said the first danger when it comes to thinking about Christ's return and the end of the world is *apathy*, the danger of not taking it seriously enough. 2 Peter 3:10 says that “the day of the Lord will come like a thief.” Matthew 24:42-44 tells us, “Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

- What would it look like for you to take Christ's return more seriously?
- What does it mean to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man?

Q – In 2 Peter 3:11-13, Peter writes, “Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. . . [I]n keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.”

- For what reasons can Christians look forward to the future?
- How does Christian hope for the future shape the way we live in the present?

As we close today, let's pray in thanksgiving for God's promise to make all things new, asking the Lord to fill us once again with hope for the future...