

Life Application Questions

Consider the following sermon-based questions for your individual study or with a group of folks like one of the several Life Groups available at Chilson Hills.

Foundational Scripture:

Mark 13:15-22; 24-32

Featured Scripture Reflection:

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”—Mark 13:24-26; 31-32

Opening Icebreaker

What does Advent mean in your life—what did your family do in the weeks before Christmas when you were growing up? What has that time with children looked like since? Best memories?

Scripture Questions

What is the Scripture saying?

- Why do you think Jesus was describing the period before his Return to the apostles?
- How do you think the Apostles felt after hearing Jesus speak these words?
- Compare this passage to John 14 1-2 (NASB), which also takes place in Jerusalem before Jesus’ death: *“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.”* In this Chapter, Jesus also promises to send the Holy Spirit as a Comforter. How might the Apostles feel after hearing these words?
- Why do you think passages like this are read each year during Advent? That is, why do you think passages about the End Times are such an important part of our Advent preparation?

How is your life touched?

- What does it mean to have a period of spiritual preparation before Christmas?
- How can we focus on the spiritual meaning of Advent and the coming of that helpless baby?
- Do the Apocalyptic readings have special meaning in this season, or do they seem out of season?
- Is it comforting to focus on the Second Coming, our wait for the Messiah, thru those readings?

What is God’s invitation to you?

- God reminds that not even the Son knows the day of his return, but that, while everything else will “pass away,” His words will not. He invites us to trust in words, which have now spanned the globe in over 387 languages (and counting).

What can you pray for?

- Pray to see anew why God chose to come as the helpless newborn of a first-time mother. Pray to follow the adult Christ’s example to minister to the little ones.