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**You
Asked
For It**



WEEK 3 | Is this the End?

PRAYER

Lord, you give life to our understanding of love, courage, and wisdom. Today, there are so many paths we might follow. Help us discern the direction to set our own faces so that we might meet you at the cross in our willingness to deny ourselves for your kingdom, and at the empty tomb is the resurrection life. Amen.

— *A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals, "Common Prayer"*

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

If you could go back one year in time and change just one thing, what would it be and why?

NOTES

WORD

³ As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

⁹ "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

[MATTHEW 24:3-14](#)

Eschatology is the study of the last things where people observe the end of history through the lens of Scripture. From this passage in Matthew, we can see Jesus highlight the signs of his coming and "of the end of the age" (vs 3). Here are those signs:

- **real believers will endure to the end and not be led astray (vs 4, 13)**
- **the emergence of false Christs and false prophets (vs 5, 11)**
- **wars and rumours of wars as signs, but *not* the end (vs 6-7)**
- **famines and earthquakes as signs like birth pangs (vs 7-8)**
- **tribulation and betrayal (vs 9-10)**

The most important sign, though, is that the gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations (vs 14), then the end will come. Whilst all the others are signs that we can only prepare for, the proclamation of the gospel is the responsibility of the followers of Christ.

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = not at all; 10 = extremely), how would you rate your preparedness if everything were to end today?
2. What questions, fears, or apprehensions do you have around the subject of the end times? Where might these fears come from?
3. Why is the gospel inseparable from the subject of eschatology? How does the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus directly tie in to the idea of where human history is headed?
4. How can we help one another to persevere and develop grit? How can learning about the persecuted church around the world help us in this endeavour, knowing that the church exists in some of these zones where there are "wars and rumours of wars"?
5. If you do not yet have a relationship with the God who saves us, and sets us free from trying to pointlessly work our way into righteousness, would you like to follow him and enter into a saving relationship with him through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer with them:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER