

***Leaders Note:** Just a reminder that this is a guide to help facilitate your group. You do not have to cover all of the material on this lesson.

READ: Matthew 24:36, John 14:1-3, Matthew 25:41, 1 Thessalonians 5:2

OPEN:

- How was your week and how did God move in your life? Share some brief thoughts.
- What comes to your mind when you hear the words "End Times?"
- What does the word "Maranatha" mean? (*Leader's Note: Maranatha means "Oh Lord, Come!"*)
- How does the perspective of Maranatha impact the way Christians should live?
- Discuss as a group the Big Idea of this week is: 1) I am Looking for the Return of Jesus. 2) I am Longing for the return of Jesus. 3) I am Living for the Return of Jesus

DIG: * Read: Matthew 24:36

- Jesus Himself said these words in Matthew 24:36, "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." If Jesus does not know "the day or the hour", then neither does the "prophet" on TBN, Facebook, YouTube, and so on. What is the danger of following those who say they no when the End Times or the Return of Christ will happen?
- Bridge City Church believes that the Bible teaches on the End Times...(review and discuss)
 - There will be "signs" of the End Times. (Mt.24:4-5; Mk. 13:5-6; Lk 21:8; 2Thes. 2:1-10)
 - Jesus will return unexpectedly, Second Coming (1Thes. 5:2)
 - The dead in Christ will be resurrected (1Thes. 4:16)
 - Believers who are alive at Jesus' return will be "caught up" to meet Him (1Thes.4:15-17)
 - Those alive will be raptured. (1Thes.4:15-17)
 - Judgement Seat of Christ where all will stand (2Cor.5:10)
 - Final Judgement – Lake of Fire, Second Death (Rev. 20:15)
 - New Heaven and New Earth (2Pt. 3:13; Rev. 21-22)
 - Jesus' Second Coming will consummate a "new" and perfect age.
- The Book of Revelation is one of the most difficult books in the Bible to interpret. Why do you think this is? (*Leader's Note: Issues of understanding come from sequencing, timeline and how End Times events occur. Also Revelation is highly symbolic, metaphorical, and allegorical in some cases.*)
- Why is it important to focus on what we do know when it comes to the End Times?
- Read Matthew 24:44. Why is it important to be in relationship with God? How can we stay ready?
- Why is it important to share the Gospel with others? How can we develop a sense of urgency?

REFLECT:

- What are the two or three things the Holy Spirit spoke most clearly to you this this connection group today and how will you respond to Him?