

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ARE YOU READY? BE PREPARED

Scripture: Mark 9:14-29

Pastor Mickey Stonier, 09 Aug 2015

This week Pastor Mickey talked about how we can be prepared in the event of a disaster not only physically but also spiritually. God calls us to be prepared in order to make a difference not only in our families but in our communities as well. Do we see ourselves as a source of hope in our communities? One of the practical ways we can apply what we have learned in the “Superman Series” is to be ready to pray for people. In a disaster situation, resources may not be available. We have an amazing opportunity to share the love of God with people in these difficult situations.

MEMORY VERSES

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I *am* with you;
Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God.
I will strengthen you,
Yes, I will help you,
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. Ask everyone to share: What have you procrastinated (put off doing) about the longest?

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS: **Why** do we procrastinate?

What does it take to overcome procrastination?

2. In the event something happened, and all forms of electronic communication (including the regular house phone) were unavailable, how would you meet up or get in touch with loved ones or close friends?

3. What is the most important thing you should do this week? Do you have an accountability partner to help with follow up and encouragement?

STUDY QUESTIONS

Read and meditate on these verses:



Matt 24:42 "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Matt 25:13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Mark 13:33 "Take heed, **watch and pray**; for you do not know when the time is.

Luke 21:28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

1. Who spoke these verses? Who was the audience for the verses? What do these verses mean to us today?

Prepare PRACTICALLY

Proverbs 3:25 "The ants *are* a people not strong, yet they prepare their food in the summer.

2. What is the most practical action we can take now to prepare us and our neighborhood for?

- * An extended power failure?
- * A local weather-related disaster?
- * A major earthquake?

Prepare PURPOSFULLY

1 Peter 3:15 "In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"

Have everyone get together in groups of 2-3 people. Spend a few minutes in quiet prayer and reflection preparing to answer someone who asks: With all the "stuff" going on in the world, what gives you any reason to have hope?

3. Practice giving your answer with love and respect to those in the micro- group.

4. How could we better abide in God's precepts? Or, if someone was watching us 24/7, when would be having our biggest struggle walking close with Jesus?

Prepare PROPHETICALLY

Amos 4:12 "Prepare to meet your God"

Matt. 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

2 Tim 3:1-4 "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ^{unloving}, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God



5. If just now, you knew that for sure, you only had one week to live, what is the first thing you would do upon receiving that news?
6. Considering Matt 7:21-23, what are we doing now that looks like we are walking with God but in our hearts we are struggling to be obedient to His will?
7. Considering 2 Tim 3:1-4, what can we do to will prepare us spiritually for the last days? What can we pray about to avoid the sinful behavior listed in the verses?
8. How can we encourage one another to do the things we should be doing now instead of waiting until the end of our lives?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Pastor Mickey shared that when people have a traumatic or extremely stressful event, they often experience "post traumatic growth". Examples include a realization that more time needs to be spent with family, or our time, talent and resources need to be prioritized differently. What insight or changes can we experience now before having that in reaction to a traumatic event.

TAKE IT HOME!

Text "Disaster" to 59769

