

## ***Gospel of Matthew - The Future***

Matthew 24:1-14

Icebreaker: How did you practice BLESS this week?

Discussion: For group discussion to be fruitful and engaging for everyone in your group, make sure that your discussion groups are not larger than 4 people. If possible, break up into groups of 2 or 3.

Larger Group: (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone
- Introduce the direction for the evening.
  - Read Matthew 24:4, 13-14 highlight the following
    - The starting place of this conversation is that Jesus is aware that we will be tempted to stray from the gospel and warns us to stay alert to things that can sidetrack us.
    - Our goal is for us to endure hardship and continue proclaiming the gospel until the end.
    - So, “May the God of endurance and encouragement grant us to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” - Romans 15:5-6
- Prepare to break into smaller groups

Smaller Groups (20-25 minutes) Give the following instructions and break into small groups (2-3 people).

Have someone read Matthew 24:3-8. The disciples are not on the same page with Jesus as shown by the questions they ask and the answers he gives. The disciples are concerned with an immediate, temporal kingdom. Jesus is concerned about them being able to endure much further into the future.

- What are some ways that you have experienced the gap between your understanding of God’s plan, and the reality of God’s plan?
- Jesus is concerned that we not get led away from devotion to him?
  - What are some potential threats to our devotion are addressed by Jesus?
  - As you look over those threats, which ones do you feel most impact you?

Have someone read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. Paul makes it clear that he is very limited. When he is unashamed of his limitations, in fact, he boasts about them. Christ empowers him in his humble vulnerability!

- How has acknowledging your weakness, vulnerability, or limitation led to you experiencing Christ’s power in your life?
- What are some ways that failing to boast in our weakness is hiding Christ’s power in your life?

- What is an area of vulnerability, weakness, or limitation that you are currently struggling to admit to, let alone boast in?

Larger Group:

Return to larger group to give summary of your discussion in smaller groups (5-10 minutes)

How does acknowledging your limitations, vulnerabilities and weaknesses help you communicate the gospel to your friends and family?

Allow time to pray for the lost, end with B.L.E.S.S. (10-15 minutes)

Where are group members in the B.L.E.S.S. process? Model for them how to answer briefly, for example:

“I’m praying for \_\_\_\_\_”.

“I have been having good conversations with

\_\_\_\_\_”.

\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (day of the week).”

Closing prayer - (2-5-minutes)