

HOPE DURING THE ELECTION

ABOUT THIS WEEK

This week, your group will once again find hope during the election in a politics-free discussion about God's return!

ITEMS NEEDED

- Bibles Pens

CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

- Pray for your group Read through Discussion Guide Refreshments (optional)
 Clean meeting area Clean bathroom Crack front door

OPENING (5-7 MIN)

Briefly welcome everyone and say: Let's get things started with some levity—

WHAT'S A MEMORABLE OR FUNNY TIME WHEN YOU WERE LATE OR UNPREPARED FOR SOMETHING?

*After a discussion, say: Whether you're ready or unprepared, or late or on time, it can really change an experience for you. Today, we're going to see how this same idea relates to God's Kingdom and politics as we wrap up our series *Hope During the Election*.*

But first, let's pray

OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

Host, lead the group in prayer.

END TIMES (3-5 MIN)

*After the prayer say: Today's discussion will build on our previous discussion about God's Kingdom with a discussion of Christ's return. Meaning, Judgment Day, when God fulfills our prayer for *Thy Kingdom come*.*

WHAT EMOTIONS DO YOU HAVE WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE END TIMES OR THE LAST DAY OR JUDGMENT DAY? WHY?

BE ENCOURAGED (5-7 MIN)

After the prayer say: Regardless of how we feel about the Last Days, the Early Church was encouraged by them.

CAN SOMEONE READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18 ALOUD FOR US?

WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU AS YOU HEAR THIS READING?

WHAT'S ENCOURAGING ABOUT THIS TEXT?

BE ON GUARD (5-7 MIN)

After a discussion, say: Nearly every time Scripture mentions the Lord's return, it also mentions the importance of watching or being ready or staying awake.

CAN SOMEONE READ LUKE 21:34-36 ALOUD FOR US?

After the reading, say: Christ's return brings a focus, a preparation, an urgency to how we live our lives. This leads us to a question we asked on Sunday—

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TODAY IF YOU KNEW CHRIST WAS COMING BACK TOMORROW?

After a discussion, say: Notice that none of us were worried about who wins the election. Or how much money was in our 401k. Or our favorite football team. His return brings clarity to the importance of things. This is where we start to see why the return of Jesus brought the first century followers of Jesus so much hope despite all the political upheaval and chaos of the first century!

BE EXPECTANT (5-7 MIN)

You might be thinking—that's nice for the first-century followers, but Jesus hasn't come back for the last 21 centuries. We don't have that same urgency. Which leads to a final point we need to include on any discussion on the End Times.

CAN SOMEONE READ 2 PETER 3:8-15 ALOUD FOR US?**HOW DOES THIS CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE LAST DAY?**

After a discussion, say: God is patient to return because so many have yet to believe. Even the people we know.

WHO DO YOU KNOW THAT HAS YET TO BELIEVE IN JESUS AND BE SAVED?**CLOSING PRAYER (5 – 7 MIN)**

After a discussion, say: We'll make sure to include all of these people in our closing prayers.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS TO ADD TO OUR CLOSING PRAYER?

Host, after taking prayer requests, close out the group in prayer.