The Return of Christ: Signs of the Times

Life Group Questions

Text: Mark 13:1-31

1. What about the message, “Signs of the Times” struck you powerfully, stood out to you, convicted you, left you with questions, confused you, or that you simply just want to comment on? Discuss as a group.

2. Have you ever had a moment where you thought we might be nearing the end of the world? Or, wondered if Jesus’ return might be coming? Explain.

3. Jesus gives alarming news, but then tells His followers not to be alarmed, because this world and their lives are in labour. Does this image of labour give you hope and encouragement, or confuse and frustrate you? Discuss.

4. Only if you’re comfortable, describe a time when the bottom fell out of your life. How were you able to keep going?

5. Jesus calls on His disciples during alarming moments to “not be alarmed” (v.7), “be on your guard” (v.9), “do not worry” but let the Holy Spirit speak into you and out of you the gospel, and “stand firm to the end” (v.13). Which of these 4 instructions do you have the hardest time with? How could you further step into this way of living a Christian life? Explain.

6. Jesus uses the analogy of the fig tree to turn His follower’s attention away from the traumatic and alarming, to the hope of heaven. He says, “summer is near.” (v. 28) This is the sign of the times we need to keep our focus on. What are you most looking forward to this summer? Discuss. What practices help you go about keeping the joy of heaven alive in your heart each day? Discuss.

Pray: For a renewed focus on enduring through the difficult contractions of life, and renewed focus on the hope of heaven that is coming.