

Small Group Discussion Guide:

Daniel 11 & 12:1-4 - Hope for God's People



Warm Up

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together with prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and future plans.

Ice Breaker

Share one thing you're looking forward to in the future (this week, this year, or beyond). How does thinking about the future make you feel?



Know It

Key Scripture Passages

- Daniel 11:36-39
- Daniel 12:1-4
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- 1 Thessalonians 5:6-11
- Romans 12:1-2
- Acts 1:8

Sermon Summary

This message explores biblical prophecy about the end times, including the rise of the Antichrist, the tribulation period, Christ's second coming, and the millennial reign. The sermon emphasizes that Christ's return could happen at any moment, and believers must be spiritually prepared through active church involvement, discipleship, and mission.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

- **What was your initial reaction to hearing about the end times prophecy?** Were you encouraged, concerned, or curious? Why?

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- **Pastor Todd mentioned that the goal isn't just "getting saved and going to heaven."** What is the bigger picture according to this sermon? How does this expand your understanding of salvation?
- **Discuss the difference between pre-tribulation and post-tribulation rapture views.** Which view was presented in the sermon? How does this affect how we should live today?

Going Further

- **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 together.** How should the promise of Christ's return change the way we grieve when Christian loved ones pass away?
- **The sermon warned about "birthing pains" happening now** (wars, natural disasters, false prophets). What current events do you see that might align with these warnings?
- **Why do you think false teachers will be so effective at deceiving people?** What makes someone charismatic but wrong? How can we protect ourselves from deception?
- **Pastor Todd said, "You can be passionate and wrong."** Have you ever encountered teaching that seemed compelling but didn't align with Scripture? What happened?



Share It

Personal Application

- **On a scale of 1-10, how prepared do you feel for Christ's return?** What areas need strengthening in your spiritual life?
- **The sermon emphasized three key preparations:**
 - **Belong to a church family** (not just attend)
 - **Grow as a disciple** (through small groups and teaching)
 - **Live on mission** (sharing the gospel)

Which of these three is strongest in your life? Which needs the most work?

- **Are you currently a "functional" or "dysfunctional" church member?** What would it look like for you to move toward being more functional?

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Key Takeaways

- **Christ's return is imminent** - It could happen at any time, so we must live ready
- **The end is actually a new beginning** - Heaven and earth will be united under Christ's reign
- **Individual Christianity is insufficient** - We need the local church body to stay grounded in truth
- **False teachers are coming (and here)** - They will be charismatic and appeal to emotions rather than biblical truth
- **Preparation requires action** - Church membership, discipleship, and mission are non-negotiable.



Live It

Practical Applications

This Week:

- **If you're not a church member**, sign up for the Membership Matters class or speak with a pastor about joining
- **If you're not in a small group**, commit to signing up this week
- **Identify one person** you can invite to church this month (and follow through!)
- **Evaluate your church involvement**: Are you serving? Are you growing? Are you on mission?

Daily:

- **Read one chapter from the Book of Revelation** to prepare for the upcoming sermon series
- **Pray for discernment** to recognize false teaching when you encounter it
- **Ask yourself**: "If Christ returned today, would I be ready?"

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Accountability:

- **Share with the group:** What is ONE specific step you will take this week to be more prepared for Christ's return?
- **Exchange contact information** with at least one group member who can check in with you about your commitment

Action Challenge

The "Hacienda Challenge": This week, invite someone to lunch (doesn't have to be Hacienda!) with the specific goal of building relationship and inviting them to church. Report back to the group next week about how it went.



Prayer

Prayer & Closing

- Share prayer requests related to:
 - Areas where you need to grow spiritually
 - People you want to invite to church
 - Concerns about the future or end times
 - Desire for deeper commitment to Christ

Closing Prayer: Pray for each person's specific commitments and for the church to be prepared as the bride of Christ for His return.

For Next Week

- Come prepared to share: Did you follow through on your commitment this week?
- Bring a friend if possible!

"Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing." - 1 Thessalonians 5:11