



LEADER'S GUIDE

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: Study Session #6
What Time is It?

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FEB 11 - MAR 18

#cedargrovechurch

SHARING QUESTIONS

LEADERS: Opening question before video.

1. **Share the three most important** days/dates in your life (Birthday/Wedding/Anniversary can only be one of them).

PAIR UP AND PRAY

- Ask the Lord to open your hearts to help you engage around His word.
- Pray about anything significant that happened to you in the past week.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

“Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

Matthew 24:2

MATTHEW 24:32-41

³² “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ³³ Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁴ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

May 14, 1947 was the day and year that the tiny Nation state of Israel became it's **own country** again.

WHAT GENERATION?

Prophecy scholars taught that Jesus coming would not happen until verse 34 is fulfilled. *“Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.”*

Which raised a great question, ‘What generation was Jesus talking about?’

- It wasn't the one that the **disciples** were a part of!

Many Prophecy scholars have taught that the generation Jesus was speaking of was the generation of people who were alive when the **nation of Israel** was re-established on earth.

- The thought being that before the generation that was alive in 1947 is **gone**, the end of time will come.
- The youngest person from that generation is now **71 years old.**

Can you see any **evidence** in our society, culture, families, and economies, that would point to the prophecy scholars being right?

- **LGBTQ** take over of society.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

There is a clock that is not monitored or managed by biblical scholars or by Christians; nor is it managed by extremists or survivalists - it is actually managed by scientists. Some of the most respected atomic scientists in the world. Do you know what they call their clock?

- The **doomsday** clock.
- On January 26th, 2018 they moved the hands on the clock **30 seconds closer** to midnight!
- The clock currently reads **two** minutes to 12.

Is this gloomy stuff? Is it doomy stuff? Well in my opinion that all depends on where your **head** is and where you **are headed**.

1 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 2 Peter 3:11-12

LEADERS: After the video is finished discuss the following question as a group. Have at least three people share. (5 mins.)

Do you see this as gloom and doom or have you seen it more as exciting evidence that your redemption is drawing closer?

WHAT TIME IS IT?

A LOOK INTO THE BOOK

LEADERS: We are going to spend time discussing three final readings in Matthew 24. Read the passages together and then either discuss as a group or pair up.

PASSAGE #1 (7-10 min)

Matthew 24:37-39 *37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man*

In seeking to describe the days of Noah, the writer of Genesis says:
6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

- **What characteristics** do you see as paralleling from Noah's days to ours? Be specific.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

PASSAGE #2 (7-10 min)

Matthew 24:42-44 ⁴² *Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.* ⁴³ *But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.* ⁴⁴ *So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.*

- **Why do you think Jesus** uses the illustration of a thief to drive his point across? Is God a thief?

LEADER NOTE: Of course not, the point is you need to be alert.

- **How conscious are you** of personal or household theft?

LEADER NOTE: You might ask how much people expect to be robbed?

- **Are there measures that you** take to protect and or prevent theft? How often do you take them? (most people are highly conscious, lock doors right away, set alarms, inform neighbors, watch for suspicious people)
- **What corollaries can you make** between what you do to protect yourself and what you should do to be ready spiritually?

WHAT TIME IS IT?

PASSAGE #3 (7-10 min)

Matthew 24:45-51 ⁴⁵*Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?* ⁴⁶*It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.* ⁴⁷*Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.* ⁴⁸*But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,'* ⁴⁹*and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.* ⁵⁰*The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.* ⁵¹*He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

- **This passage isn't** really about food or servants, or even mistreating people what is it really about?

LEADER NOTE: It's about living a ready life for God regardless of your role. We are all in charge of others, even if it is just our own children. If we are conscious of Jesus return it will impact how we deal with them.

- **How focused is your life** on Kingdom work and the Kingdom purposes of God?

WHAT TIME IS IT?

- **Verses 50-51 are pretty stark** scriptures. What do you understand Jesus to be communicating?

LEADER NOTE: there will be punishment for those who live disobedient lives.

- **How do you reconcile this passage** with the doctrine of eternal security, 'once saved always saved'?

LEADER NOTE: This at the least needs to be a strong caution. The person who thinks they can live like hell and still go to heaven is mistaken. If you truly are saved - you will not fall into this kind of behaviour.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

SHARING TOGETHER

LEADERS: End your time by going around the group and giving everyone the chance to share on one of the following. (10 min.)

- What blessed me most was....
- What challenged me most was...
- What disturbed me most was...
- What rattled me most was...
- What encouraged me most was...

PRAYING TOGETHER

LEADERS: End in a time of prayer either as a group or pairs (5-7 min.)

WHAT TIME IS IT?

NOTES