



Living Water
Church

Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



Jesus-Returning Soon or Never Coming Back?

Introduction: Jesus, the God man, emptied himself of the glory He has before the world was made and entered humanity as a baby. The God became man, not a man who became God. He lived a sinless life (a life that we could not live) and was crucified as a sin offering to be our substitute—making atonement for our sin. He was placed in a borrowed tomb and three days later physically arose from the grave. He walked the earth for 40 days before ascending back to Heaven to sit down at the right hand of the Father. The disciples were told that the Jesus they saw descend into heaven in a great cloud would one day return in the same manner. Believers await the coming of the Lord.

Text: Luke 21:5-28; 2 Peter 3:3-15

Discussion:

1. When you think about someone claiming that Jesus is returning soon, what image comes to your mind? Discuss/Write
2. Read 2 Peter 3:3-4 How have you experienced the mocking from others about the return of the Lord? Why does it seem so strange to people?
3. What does Peter say about the seemingly delay of Christ's return? What are two reasons that explain the delay?
4. Read Luke 19:41-44: Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?
5. Read Luke 21:5-24: Jesus foretold the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Look up historical records of the besiege of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Roman empire. How does Jesus' words match what took place?
6. The Jewish people missed their day of visitation when Christ came. Their rejection led to a day of vengeance in their destruction. What happens, when a person dies, if a person rejects Jesus as Lord?
7. If the prophecy of the fall of Jerusalem happened as Jesus said it would, then how does this impact your view in the return of Christ?
8. Read Luke 17:26-30: Discuss/Write the conditions the world will be like when Jesus returns. What will be the actions of people and the attitudes of people? See Gen.6 & Gen. 19
9. Read Luke 21:25-28: When the heavens shake, what will you do?
10. Read 2 Peter 3:10 What is going to happen to the earth?
11. Read 2 Peter 3:11 In light of the truth of verse 10, who should the Christian live? Write/Discuss how this looks like in your daily life.

Think About it:

The return of Christ is soon. Remember that Jesus does not use our clock. He has his own timing. The reality is that He is returning to create a new heaven and new earth where righteousness will dwell for all eternity. Some people wonder if they will be living when Christ returns. Who knows? But think about this . . . how old will most people live? Let's say 90 years (which is begin generous). Take 90 and subtract your current age. Guess what . . . the end of the world is in that many years for you (if you are lucky enough to live that long). We will either meet Christ at his return or upon our death. The question is: are you ready?

Moving Forward:

This week be intentional in looking for the return of the Lord. Live each day as if it could be the last. Make sure that you are living a God pleasing life. That you are not controlled by your fleshly desires, but led by the Spirit. Be the husband/wife, father/mother, son/daughter, friend, co-worker that God would want you to be. Share the good news of Jesus. Invite a friend to church and dinner. Make the most of every opportunity so that Jesus will find you faithful!