

# Small Group Curriculum

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*Week of November 4, 2012*

1. It's been a while since you've studied Mark, so as a group skim through chapter 12 to remind yourselves of the context of this week's passage. Remind them that in Mark 12:41-44, Jesus pointed out the widow's meager offering as an attack on the temple's hypocritical worship and social abuses. In this week's passage, Jesus continues to speak negatively about the temple.
2. Read Mark 13:1-13. In verse 1, one of Jesus' disciples is awestruck over the architecture of the temple. Why is Jesus so determined to move him off that posture?
3. Jesus gave the four disciples more information than they were looking for. How do you think they felt after hearing these words? What do you think Jesus' purpose was for giving them specific information about future suffering and persecution?
4. If you were given horrific prophecies about your future, how would you respond? Would you make any changes in how you lived? Why or why not?
5. What does Jesus require his disciples to do once the time of suffering begins?
6. Jesus compares their suffering to "birth pains." What is Jesus implying will occur after the suffering? How would viewing their persecution as productive change how they endured it?
7. Pastor Brian remarked there are two incorrect responses to the end times. One he called "The End Times Enthusiast" and the other he labeled "The End Times Skeptic." What are the dangers of each position?
8. Read 1 Peter 3:3-4. What false beliefs about God lie behind skepticism that the end times are coming? Peter mentioned they were driven by "sinful desires." How does holding a skeptical stance toward the end times enable immoral behavior?
9. Read 1 Thess. 5:2-4. What do these verses tell us about our ability to guess when the end times will occur?
10. What is the proper way to live our lives, knowing that God is coming back to judge the earth and then restore it?