

RCC LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION (FACILITATOR)

MARK CHAPTER 13

Discussion Starter

- Do you tend to be a forgetful person? Why or why not?
- What helps you to remember things?

Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer

Tell the Story

Read the Story (Mark 13:1-37)

- Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Mark 13:1-37

- This may be one of the most difficult chapters in all of the New Testament simply because it is extremely "Jewish" in nature. In other words, most of what it is in this chapter would have been extremely familiar to Jews and it is not nearly as familiar to us today. This is important to keep in mind for the following reason.

- We want to seek to understand what Jesus is saying first rather than making applications first. If we seek to make applications to us first, we may be making the wrong application because we have the wrong understanding of what He is actually saying.

□ Mark 13:1-2

- What is going on with how Jesus responds to what His disciples said?
 - Jesus wasn't saying that the temple was unimportant or that the structure/things of the temple were unimpressive. However, He was pointing to the destruction of Jerusalem that would happen in 70 A.D. and the destruction was going to include the complete obliteration of the temple. So, while Jesus isn't trying to be negative here or rebuke His disciples, He is pointing to and reminding them that the temple is not the most important thing. The rest of the chapter is set up to address the most important thing.
- Are there times when we lose sight of the most important thing(s) in this world and the next? Typically, when are those times for you and how do you remember what is most important?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Mark 13:3-13

- What is going on with Jesus' further explanation to His disciples in this passage?
 - While there are certainly principles in this passage that apply to you and me today, it is extremely important to not overapply this passage to us. The main point of what Jesus was saying here was not to tell His disciples every single thing that would happen but to point them to how to live for Him in the midst of incredible darkness.
 - Do you agree or disagree with the following quote? Why?

- “Sometimes Christians become so obsessed with the darkness around them that they forget about the hope that is within them.”

- This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

- In what ways are you too concerned about the darkness of this world and not focused enough on the hope that God has placed within you to share with those around you?

- This is an opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Mark 13:14-23

- When Jesus tells His disciples to “be on guard” in verse 23 about the things they will experience, what does this “being on guard” mean?

- This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

- As a disciple of Jesus today, how do you think God calls you to be on guard without becoming cynical, hopeless, and skeptical?

- This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Mark 13:24-37

- There is a little bit of a shift in the chapter because Jesus was talking about the destruction of Jerusalem including the temple in 70 A.D. but He now shifts to talking about His own return.

- When you’re thinking about Jesus returning to this earth someday, is this scary or exciting to you? Why?

- This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

- How do you believe that Jesus calls His disciples to live knowing that He is going to return, especially considering what Paul says in Philippians 1:21-26?
 - Disciples of Jesus are called to live lives that eagerly look forward and anticipate Jesus return. We absolutely should be extremely excited about getting to spend forever with Jesus BUT until then, we have work to do here on this earth until Jesus takes us! So, we are not called to look at living in this world in this hopeless way. Rather, we cherish each moment on this earth that we have and seek to capture each moment to make much of Jesus!
- How can you be a person who daily remembers to live looking forward to the return of Jesus?
- How can you be a person who daily remembers to live knowing that you still have great work to do on this earth as long as you're alive?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator

□ Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

□ Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.

- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Mark 14)

RCC LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION (STUDENT)

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