

## **Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides**

### **November 20<sup>th</sup> Study Guide**

#### **Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)**

1. What is your favorite Thanksgiving memory? What are you planning for this year?

#### **Bible Study Questions**

1. How do you respond when you hear someone predict that date of Christ's return?
2. The early Christians believed that Jesus would come back in their lifetime, but it has been 2000 years since then. Why do you think that it has taken so long?
3. In Acts 1:9-11, we are told that Jesus would return in the same way that he went into heaven. What do you imagine the return of Christ being like?
4. Read Revelation 19:11-21.
  - What do these verses teach you about the return of Christ?
  - How does the return of Christ contrast with his first time on earth?
  - The descriptions here are quite violent. Does this disturb or encourage you? Why?
5. Read Matthew 24:30-51.
  - What do these verses teach you about the return of Christ?
  - What does it mean to be prepared for Christ' return? How are you preparing?
  - What kind of things do you want to be doing when he returns?
6. Jesus says in Matthew 24:14 that the gospel would be preached to all nations and then the end would come. Why does that matter so

much to Jesus? How does that teaching impact the way that you view world missions?

## November 20th The King Is Coming

From time to time, we hear about a pastor who claims to have cracked the code about the timing of the return of Christ. When we hear that, we tend to shake our head and chuckle. Yet while many Christians believe that Jesus will return, they give it little thought as something that is far in the future. The return of Christ is one of the most important beliefs in the church and one that has deep meaning for our chaotic times.

- **Jesus Promised to Return as Our Coming King:** Many of the Old Testament prophets talked about the “Day of the Lord” in which the ancient of days would take the throne. The Jews all assumed that the forgiveness of sin and the kingship of the Messiah would all happen at once. Yet God’s plan was for Jesus to appear twice. Once as a humble servant who conquered sin through his death, and then as a returning king to finish the job. (Acts 1:9-11)
  - **His return is imminent:** Jesus himself said that he didn’t know the time or the hour that God had planned for his return. (Matthew 24:36, Acts 1:7).
  - **His return will be seen by all:** His return will not be a secret or a heavenly event, but will be visible to all (Acts 1:11)
  - **His return will be personal:** Jesus will not send someone in his place, but will come back himself. (Acts 1:7)
  - **He will deliver his people:** The book of Revelation is written to a group of Christians who are being oppressed because of their faith. Christ’s return though comes when times are at their darkest and brings deliverance to everyone. (Revelation 19)
  - **He will bring justice for all:** Jesus doesn’t just deliver his people, but overthrows evil and brings justice to those who wage war on his people (Revelation 19)
  - **He and his followers will be vindicated:** When he appears, he will be proven to be right. The deceptions will be revealed and those who mocked God’s people will be shamed.
- **What do we do with this?**
  - **Live with peace in a chaotic world:** Paul referred to the return of Christ as being our blessed hope (Titus 2:11-13). When the world seems out of control and dark, we can be confident that the chaos is only temporary. We can live with the peace that at some point he will make it all right.

- **Live prepared lives:** When talking about his return, he said that many would give up their faith or their hearts would grow cold waiting. Blessed were those who stood firm (Matthew 24:12). When he comes back, he will find those who stayed true to him, others who wasted their lives, and others who are engaged in sin. We need to live in such a way that we are prepared for his return.
- **Take the great commission seriously:** Jesus says in Matthew 24:14 that when the gospel is preached to every nation, then he will come. By bringing the gospel to unreached people groups, we are getting the work done to bring back the king. As a result, we should be involved with missions work around the world.