

A APPLY

The goal of reading the Bible is transformation. We want to let the Word of God grow deep in us so that we can bear much fruit.

1. What are some surprises (or alarms) that tempt Christians to give up and stop following Christ?

2. How can the history of fulfillment of Jesus' words challenge and encourage you today?

3. Is there any response to this passage you feel that the Holy Spirit is impressing upon you?

REACH

We want our groups to be communities who grow together and who encourage each other to reach out with the gospel. Write down and share the names of people "within arm's reach" that you hope to help move forward toward Jesus this Winter:

1. _____
2. _____

3. _____
4. _____

PRAYER

Finish your time in God's Word by using this passage as the subject of your prayer. Take time to thank God for what was learned and express your desire for His continued work of transformation in your life. Pray also for the names people have shared and opportunities to reach them this Winter with God's radically gracious good news.

Ready to Endure... and Win!

Matthew 24:15-35

When Jesus returns, I want to be found _____.

I never knew:

I need to change:

I should share:

GETTING STARTED

If there are new people in your group, have everyone do a brief introduction while answering the first question:

1. Do you like surprises? Why or why not?
2. Tell about one of the least expected or most surprising events that has happened to you. Would there have been any way for you to know it was coming?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

SOMA

BIBLE STUDY METHOD
southshores.org/soma

S SOAK

Read **Matthew 24:15-35** three times asking the Holy Spirit to open it to you. Our goal is to soak in the Spirit, the scripture, and its surroundings.

1. Where does this passage fit into the book of Matthew? Who is Jesus speaking to and why?
2. What kind of writing is this? What is difficult about this style of teaching?

O OBSERVE

Once we've soaked in the passage, we want to make sure we are able to see all that is really there; not interpreting, but taking note of what is present.

1. What are the key words? Are there any words or ideas that are repeated?

“abomination of desolation” From Daniel 11:31 - Most agree this was fulfilled in 167 BC by Antiochus Epiphanes. Many think Jesus is pointing to an echo of that event fulfilled in the events surrounding the Jewish War off 66-70 AD, ending in the destruction of the temple.

2. How is time or place significant in this passage?
3. What warnings does Jesus give to His listeners? What are they centered around?
4. Do you have any questions from the passage?

M MEANING

Now that we're familiar with the passage, we want to get at its meaning. This isn't about what it means to me, but what the author was intending to say.

1. What would Jesus' teaching about the destruction of the temple have meant for the first century Christian before the temple fell? What would it have meant after it fell?
2. What does this passage reveal about who Jesus is and what He came into the world to do?
3. How could you sum up the meaning of the passage in your own words?