

Striking Midnight

Striking Midnight -- Are You Ready for the End Times?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WHCGA

1. SERMON RECAP

Pastor Mirek Hufton opened with the electrifying promise of the Rapture from 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, challenging the congregation to understand that Jesus' return is not a distant theological concept but an imminent reality that should shape how we live every single day. He walked through the biblical signs of the end times -- including great deception, widespread persecution, an explosion of knowledge, and a massive falling away from genuine faith -- drawing from 1 Timothy 4:1, 2 Timothy 3:1, and 2 Thessalonians 2:7. He challenged the group that the Rapture is highly selective, and that living lukewarm, compromised, or merely religious lives will not be enough -- Jesus is returning for those who are truly alive in Him and remaining faithful.

2. KEY SCRIPTURES

> 1 Timothy 4:1

> "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."

> 2 Timothy 3:1

> "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come."

> 2 Thessalonians 2:7

> "For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way."

3. ICE BREAKER

Start here -- keep it light and fun!

If you found out Jesus was returning in exactly one week, what is the first thing you would change about your daily routine, and what would you keep exactly the same?

(Give everyone a chance to answer briefly before moving into discussion.)

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Question 1 -- Opening Up the Topic

Pastor Mirek described the Rapture as "highly selective," warning that simply attending church or calling yourself a Christian does not automatically mean you are ready. What did he mean by that, and how does that challenge any assumptions your group might have had growing up about what it means to be a Christian?

Question 2 -- Digging into Scripture

In 1 Timothy 4:1, Paul warns that in the last days people will "depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons." Pastor Mirek pointed out that he is personally watching this happen all around him -- including in churches. Where do you see this kind of spiritual drift showing up most powerfully in our culture today? Have you personally felt the pull of it? What does genuine, undeceived faith actually look like in daily life?

Question 3 -- Connecting to Real Life

Pastor Mirek used the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 to show that five were unprepared not because they rejected the bridegroom, but because they had not invested enough in staying ready. He connected the "buying of oil" to dedication, sacrifice, and consecration. In what areas of your own spiritual life do you feel like you may be running low on oil right now? What does it practically look like to "go buy" more?

Question 4 -- The Falling Away

He shared the striking statistic that practicing Christians in America dropped from 129 million in the year 2000 to around 66 million just twenty years later -- roughly half. He connected this directly to 2 Timothy 3:1's warning about perilous times and a form of godliness without power. Why do you think so many people are drifting away from active, genuine faith? What has kept you anchored, and what do you think the church needs to do differently to stem this tide?

Question 5 -- The Mystery of Lawlessness

In 2 Thessalonians 2:7, Paul describes "the mystery of lawlessness" as already at work. Pastor Mirek explained that the increasing moral lawlessness in society is not random -- it is a spiritual progression that is making way for something far worse. Without getting lost in speculation, what do you think it looks like for a believer to push back against lawlessness in their own home, workplace, and community in a way that is both courageous and loving?

Question 6 -- Personal Readiness

Pastor Mirek closed by saying, "As for me and my house -- pedal to the metal, 100%, go for it." He pointed to

Jesus' words in Revelation 3:15-16 about the danger of being lukewarm, noting that lukewarm Christians are not going up in the Rapture. On a personal and honest level, how would you describe the temperature of your faith right now -- hot, warm, lukewarm, or cooling? What is one specific thing that is keeping the flame from burning as brightly as it once did?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

One specific action to complete before your group meets again:

This week, choose one person in your life -- a friend, coworker, family member, or neighbor -- who does not yet know Jesus, and intentionally initiate a spiritual conversation with them. It does not need to be a full gospel presentation. It could be as simple as asking them what they believe about life after death, or sharing briefly why your faith matters to you. Come back next week ready to share how the conversation went -- even if it felt awkward or unfinished.

He reminded us that while we discuss prophecy and the end times in a comfortable room, people all around us are heading toward an eternity without Christ. The greatest sign of readiness is not just believing the right things -- it is doing something with what we believe.

6. PRAYER POINTS

Spend a few minutes praying together as a group over these specific items:

1. For personal readiness -- Ask God to reveal any area of lukewarmness, compromise, or spiritual drift in each group member's own life, and pray for the courage to respond with genuine repentance and renewed commitment.
 2. For the lost in your circles -- Pray specifically by name for two or three people in each group member's life who do not yet know Jesus. Ask God to open doors for spiritual conversation and soften hearts before time runs out.
 3. For the persecuted church worldwide -- Pastor Mirek highlighted that over 50,000 Christians have been killed in northern Nigeria alone in the last fifteen years. Pray for believers around the world who are suffering for their faith, that they would stand firm and that their courage would be a testimony to a watching world.
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7. MEMORY VERSE

Write it out. Carry it with you. Return it from memory next week.

> Matthew 24:42

> "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."

Thank you for leading your group this week. The work you are doing matters for eternity -- keep going!

-- WHCGA Small Groups Ministry