

# **WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Week of Sunday March 29, 2026**

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## INTRODUCTION

In **Mark 13**, Jesus is not calling His people to panic, speculate, or live controlled by fear. He is inviting them to stay awake, stay faithful, and trust Him even when life feels unstable. Many of us know what it feels like to live in tension between uncertainty around us and the desire for security within us. This conversation is meant to help us see where we may be distracted, fearful, or spiritually asleep, and to respond to Jesus with fresh trust and obedience.

### **Main Passage:**

Mark 13:1–37

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

# Don't Be Deceived!

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### READ ALOUD

Mark 13:1–37

**Opening Question:** When have you experienced a moment where everything around you felt uncertain or unstable, and how did you respond in that moment?

- What part of this passage immediately caught your attention?
- What details in this passage show the difference between fear and faithfulness?
- What do you think Jesus wants His followers to understand by repeating the call to watch and stay alert?
- Where might this passage challenge how people normally respond to uncertainty or pressure?

### APPLY

- What is one place in your life where you are tempted to live more afraid than alert?
- Where do you need to be more anchored in the truth of God's Word this week?
- What would it look like for you to stay spiritually awake in an ordinary part of your daily life?

### RESPOND

- What is one step you can take this week to live with greater faithfulness and focus?
- Who is one person you can encourage, pray for, or point to Jesus this week?

### **DIGGING DEEPER** *(optional)*

Read Aloud: Mark 13:14–37

- What new detail or repeated phrase stands out to you in this part of the chapter?
- How does this section deepen Jesus' call to stay watchful and not be deceived?
- What do you learn about how Jesus wants His followers to live while they wait?

### **PRAY**

Take a few moments quietly to reflect on what God may be showing you. Invite Him to reveal any areas where you have become distracted, spiritually dull, or too comfortable. Ask for help to stay alert, trust His Word, and respond with faith instead of fear. If needed, confess anything that has pulled your attention away from Jesus or kept you from obedience. Thank Jesus for His patience, His truth, and His grace that keeps you steady and ready.

## QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Mark 13:1–37

- What does this passage show us about Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus tells His followers to stay watchful?
- What can make it hard to trust Jesus when life feels uncertain?
- What is one way our family can listen to and obey Jesus this week?

*For younger children:* Help your child see that Jesus wants us to trust Him and listen to Him, even when we do not understand everything.

*For older kids or students:* What is one place in your life where Jesus may be asking you to stop drifting and start paying attention?

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## BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

**Scripture to read as you pray this week:**

- **Day 1:** Mark 14:1–11
- **Day 2:** Mark 14:12–31
- **Day 3:** Mark 14:32–65
- **Day 4:** Mark 14:66–15:32
- **Day 5:** Mark 15:33–16:8

## **What's Going On?**

Mark 13 takes place during the final week of Jesus' life, just after He leaves the temple for the last time. The disciples are focused on what is visible, power, beauty, stability, but Jesus redirects them to what is eternal and unshakable.

He prepares them for two realities: the coming destruction of the temple (which happens in 70 AD) and the future return of Christ. These are woven together in a way that creates tension, reminding us that God's timeline is bigger than our perspective. The central focus is not predicting events, but forming faithful disciples who trust Jesus, endure hardship, and stay spiritually awake.

## **A Bit of Background**

The temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish religious, cultural, and national identity. It was massive, richly decorated, and symbolized God's presence among His people. So when Jesus said it would be completely destroyed, it would have been shocking and unsettling. Within about 40 years, the Romans did exactly that, tearing it down during a violent siege.

For early Christians, Jesus' warning wasn't just theological, it was practical. Many fled the city when they saw signs of danger, taking His words seriously. This helps us understand that Jesus' teaching wasn't meant to spark speculation, but to guide real decisions, real faith, and real obedience in the middle of uncertainty.