

Bible Study Guide for November 21-27

1. Read through the gospel reading
2. Read the notes and comments
3. Read and answer the questions at the end by yourself or with other people

Matthew 24:36- 44

36 “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

The surprise the people of Noah’s time must have felt during the flood is unfathomable. However, I think back to the “Thousand Year Flood of 2015”, and I think some of the feelings we felt were parallel to what Noah’s peers felt back then. While we see later in Noah’s story that God promises to never send another flood, God does make a new covenant with us through Christ, his only son. With the season Advent upon us, Christ tells his disciples that his coming will be sudden like Noah’s flood and like the flood of 2015. But this isn’t cause for panic! Christ invites us this Advent season and always to prepare and come towards him (“ad” in Latin means “to” or “towards” and “vent” means “towards” in Latin) in relationship.

42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Staying awake, especially when you’re tired or have multiple other things to do, is hard. We’ve got families, jobs/careers, hobbies, and much more that can distract us and once we’ve taken care of all these things at the end of the day, we’re exhausted. Staying awake doesn’t happen. However, with Advent coming, Christ again, invites us to remember that he is coming and since we don’t get a solid date to RSVP to, we serve Jesus in all we can. We turn towards Jesus as we pick up our children from school, after a difficult day at work and even worse traffic by praying for guidance. We turn towards Christ as we are asked to consider serving a charity or committee

at church. In doing this, Christ helps prepare us for him as we grow in our faith by placing our worries, stresses, and doubts at his feet.

43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

We've seen it on the news repeatedly. It's even in the social media groups and security app that we may have on our phones or computers. People are having things stolen from them and have to deal with the heartbreak of getting it back or figuring out what to do now. Looking back on it, if the victims of theft knew about what would happen, they would have done anything and everything to prevent the theft from happening. Which could be why Christ is telling his disciples, and us, about preparing for Christ. Because like a thief stealing things from people's homes, we don't know if we will have time to prepare our faith in Christ after the fact. During this Advent season, see what you can do to grow in your faith, love God, and love your siblings in Christ. Maybe it comes in the form of donating your time and talents to the Social Ministry Emphasis for the month. Maybe it looks like supporting the kids and youth of the church by hosting a youth group activity. Maybe it looks like inviting a co-worker or friend to church to help them through a challenging time. This Advent season, remember that Christ calls us to stay awake and prepare ourselves in faith. Just as we put up a security system in our homes, and grow our habits to keep our physical possessions safe, prepare for Christ by loving and serving him and all our siblings.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What have you done in previous Advent seasons to “turn towards” Christ? Are they the same things that you did last year or the year before that?**
- 2. If God told everyone that Christ was coming back on October 21, 2025, what would you do? Would you be worried about how you have been preparing for Christ? Why or why not?**
- 3. How are you going to prepare and await Christ during Advent season of 2022?**