

Study Guide for Something BIG is Coming

November 29, 2009



Open Up

Is anyone in your group disaster movie fans? What do they enjoy about disaster movies? For those who aren't fans, what don't they like about these movies?

TRANSITION: Movies may make us think about what we would do if faced by similar catastrophes, but something more important than natural disaster preparedness is preparing for Jesus' coming.

Dig In

1) Read Mark 13:1-7. The temple King Herod built was an impressive architectural wonder. What are some modern engineering or scientific accomplishments that create similar awe? What was Jesus' response to the disciples marveling at human accomplishments? Do you ever struggle to *remember* that God's power is more important than either mankind's accomplishments or crises?

2) Read Matthew 24:30-31, 36-39. Has anyone in your group ever read or listened to a Christian teacher who claimed to know details about the second coming? What might be some reasons why people are so curious about the details, especially timing, of the end of the world? What does Jesus emphasize about his second coming? OPTIONAL: Read Genesis 6:5-9, and 6:22-7:1, and 8:1-3, and 8:20-22. We most often remember Noah's "disaster preparedness" as building the ark, but what do these verses tell us about Noah's spiritual "disaster preparedness" and "disaster response"?

3) Read 2 Peter 3:3-15. Peter was one of those who marveled at Herod's temple and heard Jesus' response. What practical preparations does Peter emphasize? OPTIONAL: Does our culture dismiss or obsess on the promise that Jesus is coming again? OPTIONAL: Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-8. What similar truths do these verses emphasize?

Work On

1) Peter emphasizes that we need to be ready for the BIG thing coming. Specifically, he is referring to Jesus' second coming, but all Christians in every era have their own particular BIG thing coming. Though Jesus did not return in Peter's time, the BIG thing in Peter's time was government persecution. What are some church-wide BIG crises we face today? What are some individual-sized BIG thing-crises people in your group are facing?

2) No matter what BIG thing-crisis we face, Peter's counsel on living godly lives is good preparation. Thinking about "disaster preparedness kits" (generator, food, medical supplies, etc.) what kind of Christian behaviors do we need when facing a crisis? Share with your group which crisis-preparedness "pieces" you are missing from your "kit." Talk about some action steps to add them.

Lift Up

All of us are broken and need to repent to be at peace with the Lord and Savior who is coming again. Pray repentantly about your own sin, and pray specifically (silently or aloud) for someone you know who needs to repent to be ready for Jesus' second coming.

Another Step – Advanced Study

One place to begin finding out more about the movie *2012* is this Christianity Today article, including the discussion questions at the end that provided a starting point for parts of this week's study.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/movies/reviews/2009/2012.html>.