



BiG iDEA SMALL GROUP DiSCUSSiON GiDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

04.24/25.10 // GOD AT THE MOVIES: 2012

BiG iDEA: *Jesus is returning soon...Be ready at any moment by living faithfully and getting others ready!*

// **Ice Breaker** _____

Option 1: Doomsday movies like 2012 are very popular. What would you say contributes to their popularity? What are some of your favorites? Why?

Option 2: When catastrophes happen do you think about the end of the world being near? Why or why not?

// **Questions for Discussion** _____

1. Mark 13: 32

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." Ephesians 2:10

What are some reasons that God doesn't tell us exactly when the world ends?

What do you think would be the affect if we knew when the world ends?

2. 1 John 2:8 ...This is the last hour. Revelation 22:12 'Behold, I am coming soon.'

The disciple John wrote these soon after Jesus' death and resurrection [about AD 95].

What is the significance of him writing these so long ago?

3. Mark 13: 33-37

"Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!' "

Because no one knew when the owner would return, what affect did this have on the servants?

Because no one knows when Jesus will return, how should this affect the way we live?

4. 2 Peter 3: 8 - 10

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

Why is God holding off the end of the world? What does this say about how God feels about us? In the movie 2012, only the gifted and rich had a chance to be saved. How is this different than God's standard of who can be saved?

5. 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-2, 4, 6

Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ...But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ...So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.

What is our main concern about the date of Christ's return?

How is the "surprise" of that day different for Christians than for non-Christians?

6. Matthew 13

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.

²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.

²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

²⁸ "An enemy did this," he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

²⁹ "No," he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.' "

³⁷ He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰ "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

⁴⁷ "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

What do these two parables tell us about the return of Christ? Does there seem to be a sequence of events?

7. Matthew 6:27

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

Is it OK to have some fear and anxiety over the end of the world, or the day of your death?
What change of perspective about that day can help us?

8. **Big Idea: Jesus is returning soon... Be ready at any moment by living faithfully and getting others ready!**

How does the idea of living faithfully day to day fit with being a 3C Christian (Committed, Connected and Contributing)?

What are some ways that you and Southpoint can help get others ready?

// **Application** _____

Read and commit to memory Mark 13: 33

Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.

Be ready at any moment by living faithfully and getting others ready by committing to be a 3C Christian.

- **Committed: To Christ - Keep the Lord as the center of life through prayer, Bible reading, and gathering weekly to express love to Him through worship.**
- **Connected: To His Community – Meet with your group to build up one another.**
- **Contributing: To His Cause - Serve to fulfill your purpose.**

// **Prayer** _____

That we would help others know the truth about the end times and help them know Jesus.
That the Sons of Thunder will attract the un-churched with the message of Christ.

