

Small Group Discussion Guide — Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

- If 4:13-18 was Paul answering the Thessalonian's question about what happens to those who die before Christ returns, then what question is Paul addressing and answering in 5:1-11?
- Why do you think there is such a fascination among many Christians about predicting the exact timing of Christ's return and the end of the world? What are the dangers with this for believers? How could this be distracting us from our main task? (Read Acts 1:6-7) Why is this also a futile endeavor?
- What two images does Paul use in vs. 2-3 to describe the return of Jesus? What do these two illustrations communicate? And what effect should they have on us?
- According to vs. 4-8, what does it look like to be ready for Christ's coming? What does Paul mean when he says that Christians are no longer in darkness?
- In vs. 9-10, on what basis does Paul give believers assurance that the hope of their salvation will be fulfilled when he comes and that they won't experience wrath? How is Christ's first coming good news for his second coming?
- Why do you think we find it hard at times to believe in the doctrine of the return of Christ? How have you struggled with believing this doctrine?
- Why do we find it hard at times to live distinct from the world? How might this world have a "darkening" effect on Christians? Or to ask it another way, how can believers be "drunk" on the world?
- How do you think living in light of His coming should shape how you live here and now? What would change in your life if every decision you made daily, including how you spent your time and money, was filtered through the lens of that coming Day?
- How might you use this passage this week to encourage and build someone up in our church? Who is hurting or discouraged? Who isn't living ready?
- Who is there that you know in your life who needs to be warned about this fast approaching Day? How can we pray for them, and for you, as you seek to share the gospel with them?