



STUDY GUIDE

ENCOURAGED 07.16.2017

[set up]

Share about a time in your life where sleeping in or “snoozing” cost you something.

[digging deeper]

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

Sunday, it was said that we do not need to be preoccupied with the *chronology* of Christ’s return, but rather the *theology* of His return. Why do people get preoccupied with wanting to know when Jesus is coming back?

What would be good about knowing when He is returning? What would be bad about knowing when?

Read Matthew 24:1-25:13. How do these verses help us reduce our preoccupation with the chronology and increase our emphasis of living for the theology of Christ’s return?

Write out (use a large post it if you have it) the important theological truths and implications you see regarding Christ’s return from the passages above. After the list is built, circle the theological truth that you feel most passionate about and share why.

In this passage, the Apostle Paul draws a significant contrast between those who are sleeping (unbelievers, in darkness) and those who are awake (believers, in light). We are told in 1 Thess. 5:6 not to sleep as others do but to be awake. What does it look like when we as Christians act as those who are in darkness and are asleep? What does it look like when we are awake? (Look up Romans 13:11-14 and Ephesians 5:8-14 to help.)

How does our faith, love, and hope help us live now as we wait for Christ to return (v. 8)?

Sunday, it was said that believers in Christ live Aware, Awake and Assured. On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high) how strong would you say you are in these areas:

- Living with a constant awareness of Christ’s soon return. ____
- Living awake (pursuing of righteous, alert, and self-controlled). ____
- Living with assurance of your eternity with the Lord. ____

Is there conviction in your weakest area? Or sleepiness? Can you share more about your thoughts, feelings, and struggles related to that area? What is the greatest motivator for you to live awake for Christ?

[living it out]

What change can you make in your life starting today that will help you grow stronger in your lowest area? What question will you give permission for your LifeGroup to ask you when they see you to help encourage you in that area?

It was said Sunday, that “If we (believers) snooze, they (unbelievers) lose.” What does that mean? That statement echoes the previous week’s statement of “If we don’t share, we don’t care.” Who are you praying for that needs Christ? What spiritual movement have you seen in their lives? As a risk-taker for Christ, what is your plan to share the Gospel with them soon?

Close in prayer as a group praying for each other in the areas where you want to grow, the people you are praying for and planning to share with, and any other needs that God puts on your hearts.