

## Five Stones Church

# Sermon Study

Keep Scripture Relevant with Study Guides



### Be Intentional

Before you start your study time, make sure you create an environment for Holy Spirit revelation.

### Study Group

You can discuss difficult questions or topics with your small group or study partners.



### Note-Taking

Take notes in an organized style to help you understand the subject more clearly. Take notes on Sunday

### Become Equipped

Challenge yourself to memorize Scripture and key points from Sunday's sermon



## **Opening Prayer:**

Invite God's presence into this study. Pray for understanding, peace, and clarity as we explore these profound promises and teachings about the End Times.

## **Anchor Scripture:**

For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows.

Mark 13:8 (NKJV)

## **Sermon Study Guide - Mark 13:5-13 - The Beginning of Sorrows**

### **Setting the Stage**

Jesus disciples are curious about the end times, asking for signs of when these events will occur. However, Jesus begins by cautioning them against deception.

### **Key Insight**

False expectations, when not rooted in God's Word, can lead to confusion and chaos. By keeping their focus on Jesus' teachings rather than worldly signs, the disciples can guard themselves from deception.

### **Questions**

1. Have you ever faced confusion because your expectations didn't align with God's plan?
2. How can you ensure your focus remains on Jesus and His Word when seeking clarity?

## **Guarding Against Deception**

Jesus warns, “Take heed that no one deceives you” (Mark 13:5 NKJV).

Today, many voices claim to speak for God, yet not all are trustworthy.

### **Equipping Moment**

Evaluate the sources of your spiritual influence. Are they traceable to God’s Word, or are they merely “faith influencers”?

Acts 19:13–18 illustrates the dangers of false authority in spiritual matters.

### **Question**

1. How can you discern between a true shepherd and a counterfeit?

### **Action Step**

Write down three characteristics of trustworthy spiritual leaders based on Scripture (e.g., humility, biblical alignment, accountability).

# Spiritual Warfare

Jesus speaks of wars and rumors of wars (Mark 13:7). The real battle for believers lies in the mind and spirit. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:12 that our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces of darkness.

## Equipping Moment

Spiritual warfare requires intentional preparation. Use the 'helmet of salvation' and the 'sword of the Spirit' (Ephesians 6:17) to protect your mind from fear and deception.

## Questions

1. How do news cycles and social media influence your thoughts and emotions?
2. What strategies can you use to guard your mind against fear and anxiety?

## Action Step

Limit exposure to fear-driven news this week. Instead, spend 15 minutes daily meditating on Scriptures like 2 Timothy 1:7 and Romans 12:2.

**Signs in the Natural and Supernatural**  
Jesus points to wars, earthquakes, and famines as “the beginning of sorrows” (Mark 13:8). These signs remind us of the larger spiritual battle between God’s Kingdom and the kingdom of darkness.

### **Equipping Moment**

God is shaking both the natural and spiritual realms. The “Churchquake” we see today exposes leaders and traditions that no longer serve His purpose. It’s a call to repentance and faithfulness.

### **Questions**

1. What disruptions have you observed in your life or community that might be God’s way of drawing attention to His plan?
2. How do these disruptions challenge or strengthen your faith?

### **Action Step**

Reflect on areas of your life where God might be “shaking” things up. Commit to seeking His guidance through prayer and Scripture.

## **Persevering Through Persecution**

Jesus warns of persecution (Mark 13:9). Faithful living often comes with challenges, yet it also provides opportunities to glorify God.

### **Equipping Moment**

When faced with trials, rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance (Mark 13:11). Avoid rehearsing arguments or responses. Instead, trust that God will provide the words to glorify Him in any situation.

### **Questions**

1. How have you responded to challenges or persecution in the past?
2. What steps can you take to rely more on the Holy Spirit during difficult times?

### **Action Step**

Identify one recent challenge and pray specifically for God's wisdom in handling it. Trust Him to guide your words and actions.

## **Preaching the Gospel to All Nations**

Jesus emphasizes, “And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations” (Mark 13:10). This is not just a future event—it is a present calling for every believer.

### **Equipping Moment**

Sharing the gospel isn't reserved for pastors or missionaries. You are called to be a witness in your community, workplace, and family. Your testimony matters.

### **Questions**

1. What opportunities do you currently have to share your faith with others?
2. How can your life reflect the message of the gospel?

### **Action Step**

This week, share your testimony with at least one person. Pray beforehand, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your words and open their heart to the gospel.



## **Endurance and Faithfulness**

Jesus concludes with a powerful statement: “But he who endures to the end shall be saved” (Mark 13:13). Endurance is not about earning salvation but demonstrating genuine faith through perseverance.

## **Equipping Moment**

Your faithfulness in trials reflects your reliance on God. While salvation is a gift, enduring hardships with faith shows the world the transformative power of Christ.

## **Questions**

1. What does “enduring to the end” look like in your daily walk with Christ?
2. How can you encourage others to remain faithful during their trials?

## **Action Step**

Identify one area in your life where you feel spiritually weary. Seek encouragement from a trusted believer or mentor. Pray together for strength and renewal.

## **Closing Prayer:**

Lord, help me to stand firm in Your truth and be alert to any deception that may lead me away from You. Strengthen my foundation in Your Word, and let my life be a testament to Your holiness. In Jesus' name, amen.

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## **Final Action Step:**

Jesus' words in Mark 13:5-13 remind us that our response to the signs of the times matters more than predicting when they'll occur.

Will you choose faith, perseverance, and boldness in sharing the gospel? Remember, if not you, who?

