

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of July 15-21, 2024

## “SIGNS AT THE MIDPOINT”

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### GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What are some things that tend to cause you to lose focus, especially when you are in the middle of an important task? How are you aware of this and how do you combat it?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

1. We are told the great dragon is Satan in Revelations 12:9. Compare the description of the beast in Daniel 7:7-25 with the description of the dragon in Revelations 12:7-17. What similarities and differences can be identified between the two passages? Where do you see the Christian church under attack around the world today?
2. In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, Paul addresses those who are troubled by the idea of the coming day of the Lord. What was his assurance to the believers? Paul mentions a “falling away” (apostasy) that must occur before the day of the Lord. How do you see these happening in our day? What should a Christian do to not be deceived (verse 3)?
3. Read Revelations 12:13-17. What is Satan able to do to the woman and her “other offspring” (verse 17)? What is he not able to do? What does God do? How does this chapter meant to encourage you and strengthen your faith?
4. (Optional.) Read Revelations 7:1-8; 14:1-4. Who are the 144,000? We are told that the 144,000 are sealed (verse 2). What does this sealing imply (see Ephesians 1:13, 2 Corinthians 1:22, John 6:27)? Verse 3 says they are sealed on their foreheads, which is remarkably similar to what the Antichrist will require (see Revelations 13:18). Are there any indications from the text that the 144,000 will be “evangelists”?
5. Read Revelations 11:3-14. What do the two witnesses do and what will happen to them? Although they perform miracles and signs, the people of the earth rejoice at their deaths (verse 10). What does this say about the hearts and depravity of men?

6. One of the lessons we can learn from the two witnesses is that God will never stop working. Conditions will be harsh, Satan will unleash his hateful campaign but God does not retreat back into heaven and just let the chips fall where they may. He will be active and salvation will still be available. What are your thoughts about this?

7. Overall in this message, are you more scared or more hopeful as you learn about the events that will happen at the midpoint and after? Why?

### NEXT STEPS

- I will cultivate a deeper trust in God.
- I will depend on God’s sovereignty, even when facing uncertainties.
- I will trust and rest in the knowledge that God is in control.
- I will keep my focus on the eternal life promised by God, giving me confidence for the present and future.

*Don’t forget to:*

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.

### CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for courage and conviction to stand as a believer of Jesus.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who’s going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

### BIBLE READING GUIDE

July 15 Revelations 12:7-17

July 16 Ephesians 6:10-20

July 17 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

July 18 Psalms 42:1-11

July 19 Psalms 25:1-15

July 20 Psalms 16:1-11

July 21 Luke 12:16-21