WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Notes

Sermon Title: Why I Believe in A Last-Days Revival
Key Scripture: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/why-i-believe-in-a-last-days-revival
Date + Speaker: June 2, 2024 Pastor Mark Scarr

The BIG IDEA: Pastor Mark believes strongly that we are living in the last of the last days. That Jesus is coming back soon. He wants us to make the connection between the imminent return of Christ and revival – making the last days the worst of times and the BEST of times.

Starter Question:
1. If you had to leave Ottawa within the week, never to return, what would you make sure you did before you left?

Discussion Questions to Review (observation):
2. Read: Acts 2:16-21. What comes to mind when you hear the term – LAST DAYS or END TIMES? Why?

3. Have you ever been part of or witnessed a 'modern' revival (like Asbury Revival)?

Discussion Questions for Digging Deeper (interpretation and application):
4. Read: 2 Tim 3:1, 1 Tim 4:1, 2 Peter 3:3 and Matthew 24:8. What will the last days be characterized by? What does this mean for us?

5. Read: Acts 2:16-21. What is the overall tone of this Scripture? How does the illustration of a woman in labour help in describing the last days?

6. Read: Matthew 13:24-30. Referring to verse 25 what might 'sleeping' mean for the church/individual Christians today? What do you do to stay 'alert', 'informed', and 'optimistic'?

7. Pastor Mark challenged us to be 'salt and light, not pepper and darkness'. What challenges present themselves, in our society, to being bold and how can we overcome them?

8. Read: Matthew 13:36-43. How does this teaching make you feel and why? Now read 2 Timothy 1:7 and Romans 10:13-15. Why is recognizing fear (lions are strong, hungry, intimidating and territorial) important as we move through these times? Pray, as the Spirit leads, for one another in light of all that has been discussed.

Leadership question tips and additional resources depending on your group 'type':

1. *This starter is meant to stay light. Encourage everyone in the group to share and perhaps consider setting the tone by volunteering something light that you would make a point of doing.*
2. *Some responses may be negative and some may be positive – that's okay. There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers here.*

5. Peter draws a 'line' from the past (he's quoting from Joel), through the present, and pointing to the future. Labour pains would be horrid if there wasn't a beautiful baby delivered at the end.

7. Pastor Mark pointed out that the farmer discouraged the servant from pulling the weeds. He likened this to being judgemental. Leave the judgement to God.

 *(alternative/additional resources appealing to those groups concentrating on social-emotional connection, depth and transparency):*
https://radio.focusonthefamily.ca/broadcasts/praying-for-unsaved-loved-ones?utm_term=&utm_campaign=Focus+on+the+Family+-+Dynamic+Search+Ads+-+Canada&utm_source=adwords&utm_medium=ppc&hsa_ver=3&hsa_acc=403

6375728&hsa_mt=&hsa_ad=617153507448&hsa_tgt=dsa-406202612562&hsa_net=adwords&hsa_grp=78929297009&hsa_kw=&hsa_cam=2065863790&hsa_src=g&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwsPCyBhD4ARIsAPaaRf0JmiUtY3wNZLFRSjTLAaH54cX14aj0-mwcHPPcy_dVCH41OFAFK_YaAtYYEALw_wcB

 *(alternative/additional resources appealing to those groups with a more studious, intellectual bent):*
https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/ch-151-timeline

 *(alternative/additional resources appealing to those groups concentrating on service, tasks and activities):* https://worldrelief.org/blog-7-ways-to-love-your-neighbor/