

# SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"THE HOUR" MARCH 13 & 14

## SERIES OVERVIEW:

When Jesus ascended into heaven after his resurrection, he didn't tell us to just try to make the best of things for awhile. He didn't institute the church so that His followers would have a place to hang out over shared interests until we die and go to be with Him. Before Jesus was crucified for us, He was clear that He would be coming back and that how we live while He's gone will impact how He deals with us when He returns. This life isn't all there is. There's more to come in the next age. As we journey through Lent, we will learn from Him what it means to keep watch and be alert as we wait for His triumphal return.

*Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc.*

*Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.*

1

### OPENING PRAYER:

*About 2 minutes*

Ask a volunteer to open in prayer.

2

### BIG IDEA:

*About 10 seconds to read*

We cannot know the precise hour of Jesus' return, but we can be sure that the signs He's already told us to watch for are indicators that the end of the age is near. Rather than obsessing over the precise hour of Jesus' return, we should remember as long as Jesus has not yet come back, He's extending His kindness toward all. Peter says, "He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent." Jesus goes on to explain how we ought to live in the meantime.



**March 13 & 14, 2021**

Jesus replied, "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows." - Matthew 24:36 NLT

### Reflect

**Read the full passage in your Bible - Matthew 24:32-36.**

What sticks out or grabs your attention from the scripture readings?

Are you ready for Jesus to return? How does one get ready or be ready?

God's patience (or delay) is all about his heart that everyone would repent (see **2 Peter 3:9**). How might this impact the way you pray and the way you live each day?



### DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

**Can you say more about that?**

**How have you seen that play out in your life?**

**What does that stir up in you?**

**Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?**

**What might God be inviting you to do?**

3

### INTRO QUESTION:

*About 10 minutes*

In what situations is it most difficult for you to be patient? When it is easier for you to be patient?

4

### SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

*About 40-45 minutes*

Read the entire scripture passage aloud as a group and discuss the questions on the card above. Use the [Discussion Help sidebar](#) to encourage deeper discussion.

For whom are you praying to come to faith in Jesus? Be specific.





## 5 LIVE IT OUT:

About 15 minutes

Read this section aloud. Take a moment to go to the website listed. Click on "Pray Today". A country of the day will be shown. Read the information aloud and pray for that country now as a group.

Discuss practical ways to grow in prayer for others who don't yet know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

# TAKE IT DEEPER



## Live It Out

You can "hurry along" the day of Jesus' return by praying for the spread of the gospel to all corners of the earth. You can very easily get regular emails with prayer resources by signing up here: <https://www.operationworld.org/prayer-movement-sign-up>

## Pray

Talk to God about what's stirring in your heart from the scriptures. Listen for his response.

That the gospel of the kingdom will be preached to all the nations.

Thank God that, just as he promised, Jesus will return.

## 6

### CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 10 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud, and take a moment of silence for each person to reflect on the prayer prompt personally.

Close with a popcorn style prayer. Pray for the first name of someone who you would like to come to faith in Jesus. Consider a particular Bible verse you would like to pray in regard to them. The leader or apprentice will open and close the prayer time.