**“Be Ready” Session 4, Be Ready for The Return of Christ- Community Group Discussion Guide**

**Icebreakers:**

1. How many of you have heard the “predictions” of when Jesus will come back? What are some of the craziest predictions you have heard?

Read: ***“Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.*** [***34***](http://biblehub.com/mark/13-34.htm)***“It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Mark 13:33-34 NASB***

1. How can we take heed to the words of Christ in Mark 13?
2. Jesus describes that when He leaves it is like a master leaving on a “journey”. He will place His slaves in charge, each with his own task. What is your individual task while Jesus is gone?

Read:[***35***](http://biblehub.com/mark/13-35.htm)***“Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—*** [***36***](http://biblehub.com/mark/13-36.htm)***in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. Mark 13:35-36 NASB***

1. Jesus makes it clear that we do not know when He (our Master) is coming back. Do you think we spend too much time trying to figure out when He is coming back instead of being ready for Him when He comes?
2. Jesus says He will be coming back suddenly. How can we make sure we are always ready for His “sudden” return?

Read:[**37**](http://biblehub.com/mark/13-37.htm)**“What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’” Mark 13:37 NASB**

1. Jesus uses the word “alert” three times in these verses. He is trying to get a very important point across to us by repeating the same phrase over and over. What are things in our lives or this world that influence us to not “be on the alert”?
2. The word alert literally means: “stay awake”. What does it look like to be “asleep”? What are the consequences of us sleeping instead of being ready? (Read Matthew 13:24-30 and Romans 13:11 for cross-reference)

Read: ***Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.*** [***2***](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/5-2.htm) ***For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.*** [***3***](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/5-3.htm) ***While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.*** [***4***](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/5-4.htm) ***But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;*** [***5***](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/5-5.htm) ***for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;*** [***6***](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/5-6.htm) ***so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.*** [***7***](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/5-7.htm)***For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.*** [***8***](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/5-8.htm) ***But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.*** [***9***](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/5-9.htm) ***For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,*** [***10***](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/5-10.htm) ***who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.*** [***11***](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/5-11.htm) ***Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 NASB***

1. Paul uses very similar language when he writes to the church in Thessalonica “be alert and sober”. In verse 3 he says that people will be declaring “peace and safety” right before Christ returns and “destruction comes upon them. What does this show us regarding how the world and the devil will use media or communication to portray a false picture of reality?
2. Paul refers to the armor of the Lord in verse 8 and how we should put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. Why does Paul reference putting on pieces of the armor of the Lord when it pertains to the return of Christ?
3. Paul calls us “sons of light and sons of day” in verse 5. Yet, we live in a world of darkness and are influenced by people of darkness. Paul refers those same people as those who are sleeping. How heavy is the the influence to just sleep and “coast” until the end? How do we combat these complacent influences and feelings in order to be sober and alert for the return of Christ?