

Overview:

- Read the Scriptures printed in this study guide.
- What keywords do you first notice? Highlight or circle them.
- What phrases catch your attention? Underline them.
- The Story has an Ending toward which we are progressing.

Explore:

- How do the prophetic passages of the Bible affect you? (Ex. Matthew 24, Revelation of John)
- How do you feel about your Christian Journey? Could you describe it or compare it to a story you love?
- Would you describe some of the difficulties of your journey with your group? Some of the rewards?
- Do you sense God inviting you into a new adventure? Would you share it with your group?
- “Faith is not pretending...” Do we even need to make that statement? Or, Are there ways we pretend? How do we “pretend” with our Faith?
- What kind of book is the Bible? (Text book, history book, book of poetry, book of theology, etc) Discuss the Bible’s Purpose.
- Discuss John 5:39-40.
- Do we live our lives “too lightly”?
- What might your “Desert Journey” look like?
- Discuss the things you look forward to about Heaven. What do you think will still be exciting after a Million years?

Matthew 24:4-14 NLT 4 Jesus told them, “Don’t let anyone mislead you, 5 for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won’t follow immediately. 7 Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. 8 But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.

9 “Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. 10 And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. 11 And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. 12 Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come

2 Kings 6:16-17 NLT “Don’t be afraid!” Elisha told him. “For there are more on our side than on theirs!” 17 Then Elisha prayed, “O Lord, open his eyes and let him see.

Ephesians 1:18-19 ESV having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe...

1 Peter 4:12 NLT Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.

John 5:39-40 NLT “You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! 40 Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

Hebrews 4:7,9-10 NLT So God set another time for entering his rest, and that time is today... 9 So there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God. 10 For all who have entered into God’s rest have rested from their labors, just as God did after creating the world

James 1:6 NLT But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind.

John 15:4 MSG "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

Theophan, the recluse, "If we allow our hearts to simply listen, we perhaps begin to hear our heart speak - it says, "I am so weary, so lost. I have no energy to redeem myself. How I long for rest"

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ESV So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

1 Corinthians 2:9 NLT "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."

If I find in myself desire which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world."
C.S. Lewis

Application and Notes:

EPIC... The Journey

The Last Chapter

Matthew 24:4-14

The Road

Every Journey

Eyes to See

2 Kings 6:16-17, Ephesians 1:18-19

Setting Out

Lions, Tigers, and Mosquitoes, Oh No!

1 Peter 4:12

Desert Communion

Find Out What Pleases God and Do it

John 5:39-40

Life Too Lightly

Hebrews 4:7, 9-10; James 1:6

Deeper Still

John 15:4

The Desert Tradition

Coming Home

Hope

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Intimacy

Beauty

1 Corinthians 2:9

Adventure

Arrival

Have you had your Defining Moment?