



# **TIPPING POINT**

## **HOW DO I PREPARE FOR JESUS' RETURN?**

**Jimmy Evans**

**Focus** Jesus is returning soon, and He will take home those who have made Him Lord of their lives. If you have not made this choice, it is time to believe in Jesus and follow Him. The world is not our home, and Jesus is returning for His people.

**Fun** What is the most interesting or enjoyable place you've traveled?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Matthew 24:37–51; 25:1–46; Romans 10:9–10

### **1. The Wise and Unwise Bridesmaids**

The way you prepare for the rapture is to know Jesus. In this parable, Jesus said to the bridesmaids that were standing outside the door, "I don't know you." You are ready for the Lord's return if you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. If you don't have a relationship with Him, then you are not ready for Jesus' return.

### **2. The Stewards and the Talents**

We have talents that come from God, and when Jesus comes back, He is going to hold us accountable to how we used our talents. Feeling good about yourself is not the purpose of our lives. The purpose of our lives is to serve Jesus. God wants us to use our talents to bring Him glory and to expand His kingdom.

### **3. The Sheep and the Goats**

Jesus is going to separate the sheep from the goats. When we serve the least of these, we serve Jesus. The way we treat people shows how our hearts are toward God. We can't separate the way we treat people from our relationship with God. When Christ returns, we will be accountable for how we loved people.

God is gracious and kind, and He wants us to be gracious and kind to others. Helping people who are vulnerable and in need is how we express our love for Jesus.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Read Matthew 25:31–46. Jesus gives a clear picture of what it looks like when we love Him. Consider what it would look like for your group to do an outreach project during this difficult time in our nation. How can your group reach the community and express your love for Jesus by loving people? Maybe it's as simple as providing food for first responders, checking on widows who need help with home repairs, or providing back-to-school supplies for single moms. No service and no gift are too small.

### Discuss

1. Pastor Jimmy Evans shared that Jesus may return at any time and we need to be ready. Does this make you feel excited or anxious, and why?
2. Read Matthew 24:37. What did Jesus mean when He said, "It will be like it was in Noah's day?"
3. How would you describe Noah's day? How would you describe Noah's family, and how does this relate to our modern times?
4. Read Matthew 25:1–13. What questions do you have when you read this passage? What does it mean to have oil in our lamps?
5. If Jesus returned today, would you feel the way you treat people represents His love and kindness?
6. What is one area you would like to grow in how you express God's love and expand His kingdom?
7. If you haven't already, confess Jesus as Lord of your life right now. You can pray this prayer to recommit your life to the Lord, "Jesus I know I am a sinner. I ask You to forgive me for all of my sin. Come into my life and be my Lord and Savior. Thank You, Jesus for saving me today." If you prayed this prayer, tell someone in your group. If you don't have a Bible, your group leader can get you one.

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember:

- Know God.
- Serve God.
- Love people.

**Prayer** Heavenly Father, help us turn our eyes to You. Convict us of sin and of righteousness. If there are things in our lives that don't bring You glory, shine your light onto those areas so we can repent and turn to You. You are gracious and full of mercy. We put our hope and trust in You. Help us to actively love others and bring glory to the kingdom of God. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** The Bible says in Luke 12:12 and John 14:26 that the Holy Spirit will reveal things to us, so ask Him to show you what to focus on each week for your group and who is in need of extra prayer or ministry.