

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT
Participant Guide
Celebration Church Women's Bible Study
Based on Max Lucado's book, What Happens Next
Facilitator: Sarah Stephens

This study is not about creating fear—it's about building confidence, hope, and clarity about God's plan.

Over the next four weeks, we'll discover:

- God is not surprised by the future
- Jesus keeps His promises
- The end of the story is not destruction—but restoration

Resources used and consulted:

- What Happens Next, Max Lucado
- The King is Coming, John Bevere
- End Times Questions, Jimmy Evans

Week 1- You Don't Have to Fear the Future

Focus- God's plan and why prophecy matters

Big Idea- The future is not random—God is in control, and the story ends in restoration.

Key Scriptures-

- John 14:1-3
- Matthew 24:4-14
- Isaiah 46:9-10
- Revelation 21:1-5

Key Truths-

Jesus Calms Fear with Promises:

Jesus' words to His disciples were not warnings alone—they were comfort.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled..." (John 14:1)

The Return of Jesus Is Certain:

The earliest believers lived with a deep expectation that Jesus will come again.

The Empty Tomb Changes Everything:

Because Jesus rose from the grave, His promises about the future carry complete credibility.

There Are Signs—But Not Panic:

Scripture describes patterns in the world:

- Conflict
- Deception
- Natural upheaval
- Spiritual decline

These are not meant to create anxiety—but awareness.

Eternal Perspective Changes Daily Living:

When you understand where history is going:

- Your priorities shift
- Your decisions carry purpose
- Your hope becomes steady

Personal Reflection:

- What has shaped your view of the end times up until now?
- What emotions come up when you think about the future?
- How does seeing God's plan begin to change those feelings?

Group Discussion Notes:



Week 2- Ready, Not Afraid

Focus- The Rapture +living prepared

Big Idea- Jesus is coming for His people—this produces hope, not panic.

Key Scriptures-

- 1 Thessalonians 4:15–18
- 1 Corinthians 15:51–52
- Matthew 24:36–44

Key Truths-

The Rapture Is a Promise:

Scripture describes a moment when believers are gathered to Jesus—suddenly, powerfully, and personally.

This Is Meant to Encourage:

The early church used this teaching to comfort one another, not frighten each other.

Jesus Calls Us to Be Ready:

We are not told when—but we are told how to live:

- Watchful
- Faithful
- Expectant

Evil Does Not Win:

The rise of the Antichrist and tribulation remind us:

- Darkness increases
- But God remains sovereign

Your Life Matters More Than You Think:

There is a future moment where your life will be evaluated—not for salvation, but for faithfulness.

Personal Reflection:

- What has shaped your view of the end times up until now?
- What emotions come up when you think about the future?
- How does seeing God's plan begin to change those feelings?

Group Discussion Notes:



Week 3- When the World Shakes

Focus- Tribulation + Return of Christ

Big Idea- Even in judgment, God's heart is redemption—and Jesus ultimately wins.

Key Scriptures-

- Matthew 24:21-27
- Revelation 19:11-16
- 2 Peter 3:9

Key Truths-

The Tribulation Is Real—but Purposeful:

This is not random suffering—God is bringing justice while still offering mercy.

God Never Stops Pursuing People:

Even in the darkest moments:

- The gospel is still proclaimed
- People still respond
- Redemption is still available

The Return of Jesus Is Visible and Victorious:

Jesus does not return quietly—He returns as King.

Evil Has an End Date:

Every system, power, and rebellion against God will ultimately fall.

Every Person Will Acknowledge Jesus:

One day, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.

Personal Reflection:

- What has shaped your view of the end times up until now?
- What emotions come up when you think about the future?
- How does seeing God's plan begin to change those feelings?

Group Discussion Notes:



Week 4- The End Is Actually the Beginning

Focus- Millennium + Eternity

Big Idea- God's ultimate plan is not destruction—but restoration and relationship.

Key Scriptures-

- Revelation 20:1–6
- Revelation 21:1–5
- Romans 8:18–21

Key Truths-

Jesus Will Reign:

There is a coming reality where Jesus rules fully—justice, peace, and righteousness established.

Evil Will Be Fully Defeated:

Satan, sin, and death will not coexist forever—they have an end.

Judgment Is Real—but Not the End of the Story:

God's justice is part of His goodness—but it leads into something greater.

Heaven Is Personal and Beautiful:

Scripture describes:

- No more pain
- No more sorrow
- Direct relationship with God

The Story Ends with Restoration:

The heart of God has always been:

- Relationship
- Presence
- Redemption

Personal Reflection:

- What has shaped your view of the end times up until now?
- What emotions come up when you think about the future?
- How does seeing God's plan begin to change those feelings?

Group Discussion Notes:



