



## DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

19 & 20 MARCH 2022

“A DISCIPLE IS WATCHFUL”

LUKE 12.35-48

The main study guide material for this sermon series is to be purchased at <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/for-everyone-bible-study-guide-215>.

It is recommended that the e-book be purchased. Nevertheless, individuals or Connect Groups that wish to purchase hardcopies may do so from physical Christian bookstores, or online stores (Amazon, Bookdepository, Blackwells, etc)

The material in this document is intentionally brief. It is intended as a supplement only.

- **Begin by reading the Scripture passage together.**
- **Review the video of the sermon if needed (see <http://www.brmc.org.sg/category/resources/sermons>).**
- **Refer to the [main study guide](#) Chapter 14 as well as this supplementary material.**
- **Feel free to discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group’s current context and present stage in life.**
- **Remember to allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another, before ending your group session.**

**Info Sidebox**  
**The nature of discipleship: Being a Good Neighbour**

When will Jesus come again? This is a question that has bogged humanity throughout our history and people have attempted to predict this date alongside predictions of when the world will end. People believed that the world would end on the 31 December 1999 at the dawn of the new millennium. The Mayans believed that the world will end on 21 December 2012. When world-shaking phenomena, like the Y2K Bug and global warming, have also brought up discourse of the world ending. However, such predictions have been fruitless.

In Matthew 24:36, Jesus told his disciples that “about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” We will never know the day when Jesus returns until the day itself. While we may grow lost, confused, or impatient waiting for Jesus to return again, Peter assures us in 2 Peter 3:8-9 that “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” While we know that Jesus has promised to come back soon, God’s understanding of time far outstrips our understanding of it. Hence, we trust that God knows when is the perfect time for Jesus to return in His wisdom.

How then do we wait for Jesus’ return? The apostles and the early church can act as a model for us. They too believed that Jesus would return soon, describing the times that they lived in as “the last days.” (Hebrews 1:2) And they lived their lives ready for His return. They did not simply watch the clouds, waiting for Jesus’ Second Coming (Acts 1:11), but dedicated their lives to sharing His Gospel and bringing people into His kingdom. They were alert, prepared, and faithfully at work for Jesus the Master. How can we likewise shape our lives in preparation for His return?

**Response, Application, Prayer**

1. In vv.42-46, Jesus describes two servants. One is alert and prepared for his master’s coming at all times. The other becomes complacent or frustrated by the length of time waiting for his master. He becomes distracted and neglects his duties, even starting to beat other servants and get drunk.
  - a. In our waiting for Jesus’ return, is there any area of your life where you have become complacent, frustrated, or distracted - and thereby become soft on temptation and sin?
  - b. Consider doing a check on the condition of your heart. How conscious is your heart of Jesus’ presence? How alert are you to the Holy Spirit’s work in your life? Have you gone astray in external actions, as a result of shutting out or ignoring the Holy Spirit in certain areas of your heart?

2. In v.42, Jesus describes the good servant as “faithful and wise” because he takes care of the other servants and cares for them by providing them food. Such a servant knows the Father’s will and does it. (v.47)
  - a. We all have been given gifts. God calls us to steward these gifts faithfully, using these gifts to bless the people around us (1 Peter 4:10-11). Think about the areas of our life where we shine our lights: school, work, home, church, etc. How can we use our gifts to bless the people with whom we interact with daily?
  - b. What is God’s will for you in His kingdom? Is there any area of ministry in which God is calling you to serve Him?

3. Will you consider praying for:
  - a. The Holy Spirit to reveal areas of your life in which you have become distracted and have forgotten to let Him work.
  - b. New ways or new people to whom you can shine God’s light.