



LIFE GROUP LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

Following Jesus Through Trouble

Mark 13:1–23 • Oct 11, 2026 • 35 minutes

Aim Hear Jesus' warnings about deception and suffering and learn to remain faithful when the future feels uncertain.

Before you lead

Read Mark 13:1–23 in the setting of Jesus' departure from the temple. The disciples ask about its destruction. Christians differ on how all the events fit together; keep the discussion centered on Jesus' clear instructions. For this longer reading, use 6 minutes to welcome and read, then 7 for Head, 10 for Heart, 9 for Hands, and 3 for prayer.

Ask the main questions first. Use the follow-ups when the group needs help going deeper; the leader notes are for your preparation. Give people time to answer, and ask them to point to the verses behind their observations.

Suggested timing Welcome, prayer, and reading 6 min • Head 7 min • Heart 10 min • Hands 9 min • Closing prayer 3 min

HEAD

Understand the passage

Read Mark 13:1–23 aloud from the ESV. Keep the passage open throughout the discussion.

1. What leads the disciples to ask their question in verses 1–4?

Follow-up: How does Jesus challenge their admiration for the temple?

Leader note: Begin with the temple and its coming destruction rather than starting with a modern event or prediction.

2. What dangers does Jesus describe in verses 5–13, and how should his followers respond?

Follow-up: As his followers face opposition, what help and purpose does Jesus promise them?

Leader note: Notice deception, fear, persecution, witness, and the Spirit's help. Jesus does not promise an easy path.

3. What instructions and warnings stand out in verses 14–23?

Follow-up: How do his words show both urgency and care?

Leader note: Notice the call to flee, concern for vulnerable people, prayer, and warnings about false claims. Do not force a disputed timeline.



HEART

Examine our motives

Choose a follow-up when it helps someone explain an answer. Allow people to share honestly without pressing them to disclose more than they are ready to share.

4. When you hear troubling news, what tends to worry you most?

Follow-up: When those worries stick with you, what makes it hard to trust Jesus?

Leader note: Distinguish being informed from allowing fear to govern daily life.

5. Why do you think we're drawn to people who seem to have all the answers about God or the future?

Follow-up: When you like what someone is saying, how easy is it to stop and ask whether it lines up with Scripture?

Leader note: Consider the attraction of certainty, special knowledge, or a leader who seems powerful.

6. Where in your life is it hard to follow Jesus right now?

Follow-up: Is there something Jesus says in this passage that encourages you or challenges how you're thinking about that?

Leader note: Avoid comparing hardships. Jesus prepares his people for difficulty without minimizing it.

HANDS

Put the passage into practice

7. When you hear something this week that worries you or doesn't sound right, what could you do before reacting?

Follow-up: Who could you talk it through with, and how could you turn to Scripture for help?

Leader note: Choose a practical habit of checking sources, reading Scripture in context, and resisting impulsive sharing.

8. Do you know someone who's having a hard time because they're following Jesus?

Follow-up: What's one thing you could do this week to help them feel supported?

Leader note: Pray together and identify a concrete way to stand with that person.

Close in prayer

Ask Jesus to guard us from deception and fear. Pray for believers facing persecution and for courage to speak truth and remain faithful.