

Asking for a Friend.

Groups Discussion Guide – September 13, 2020

This week, Pastor Jared talked about how the difficult days we are experiencing may be an indication of the end times. While we can be confident that the tribulation hasn't started, we can clearly see that the spirit of the antichrist is here. It's important for us as believers to recognize these spirits so we will not be defeated by them. 1 Thessalonians 4 and 5 provide us with an end times "check list" so we can "run faster than the horses." The first thing we need to do is run with covering. We should never run alone or outside the authorities God has placed in our lives. By design, we're always better together. Next, we need to run with ministry. In these times, everyone, including ourselves, has a need. Then, we need to run with grace. This means we don't give people what they deserve, we give people what they need. Finally, we need to run with joy. Even when we face difficult circumstances, we have the ability to choose joy.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Of the four spirits described, which do you feel you encounter most?
2. Where do you see these spirits at work in our world today?
3. Of the four ways we can prepare to run faster than the horses, which seems easiest and which seems hardest to you? Why?

ACT ON IT

Take time this week to seek the Lord about which "check list" item you need to address most. Identify your next step towards being prepared in that area, and take it! Find a friend in your group that you can share together these areas to prepare you in order to run ahead of the horses. Share where you need to grow personally, and discuss next steps.

PRAY ABOUT IT

"Jesus, thank You for being present in all things. Please give me discernment to know when I'm encountering the spirit of the end times. Help me be prepared to run with covering, ministry, grace, and joy. Thank You for equipping me with the ability and confidence to run with the horses."