

# The End Times

# Part 3

**Key Scriptures: Daniel 7:15-28; Ephesians 6:10-12; Revelation 13:16-17; James 4:7; Matthew 24:3-13**

**1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.**

- Have you ever had an experience that was totally different than what you expected? Was it better? Worse? Pleasant? Painful? Explain what your original expectations were and what was so different from them..

**2. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.**

- How would you define tribulation? What is your understanding of the Great Tribulation?
- Did God protect Daniel *FROM* the lion's den or did He protect him *IN* the lion's den? Did God protect Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego *FROM* the furnace or while they were *IN* the furnace? What is the difference?
- If God saved these men while they were in the middle of these trials, what might that mean for the church today? Why?
- Do you remember your first time visiting a doctor and you received a shot? Did anything give you in the middle of that situation? (A parent? A doctor/nurse? A friend/sibling? The knowledge that it was for your good that you received that shot?) Whether you found a source of comfort or not, would you still go to a doctor in the future? Why or why not?

**3. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.**

- When you hear about these things to come, what is your reaction? Why do you feel that way?
- In Daniel 7:15 we see that Daniel is troubled and disturbed... does that mean he doubts God? Does it mean he is reacting sinfully? Does it mean he recognizes his emotions and yet still trusts in God? Explain your answers.
- What kind of war or battle are we in according to Ephesians 6:10-12? Will God save us from these battles or walk through the battle with you? Explain.
- What is the "Armor of God" talked about in Ephesians? Where does it come from? How do you put it on?
- What does James 4:7 say is the best strategy for fighting this spiritual war?
- In Matthew 24:3-13, we see what Jesus said would happen before the end of the age. What does He say to do to get through this and be saved from it? What does it take to "stand firm"?

**4. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.**

- Pray for the wisdom, perspective, and strength to stand through whatever trial may come your way.
- Pray for a better understanding of how to stand firm in the Armor of God and how to rely on Jesus through tough times.

**5. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.**

- Take a moment to review Ephesians 6:10-20. Then, put on the Armor of God by committing to live in truth, righteousness, and peace, and letting your faith in God be a shield to block our temptation, distraction, and apathy. Remember that God has saved you and confirms it in His Word, the Bible. All of these are pieces of the Armor of God!