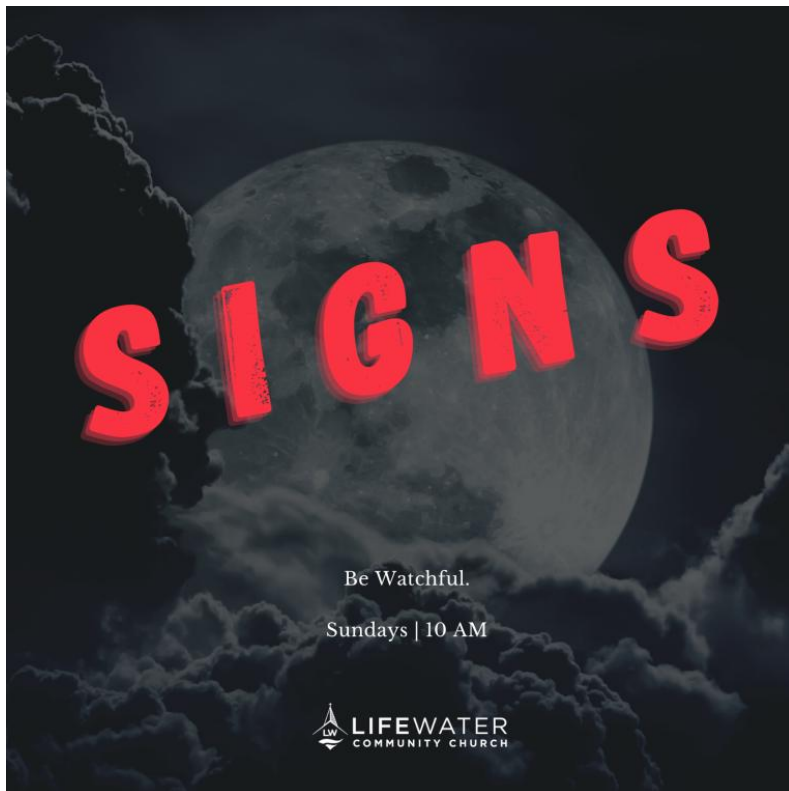


# LifeGroup Sermon Series Study

2020-2021

*Series Two*



## **“Signs: Be Watchful” Article**



I sit here at my desk and I’m reading about political upheaval, rising unemployment rates, riots, COVID-19, hurricanes, and wildfires. I can’t help but wonder . . . is this the end times? Is Jesus coming back soon? Are we ready?

The Bible gives us signs signaling Jesus’ return but they’re confusing. In Matthew 24, the disciples came to Jesus and asked him what were the signs of His coming and the end of the age? His answer can be difficult to interpret and understand; and people have been trying to predict His return for generations . . . unsuccessfully. Thankfully, Jesus also gave the disciples clear, practical guidance about how to prepare for His return.

In today’s world it is easy to miss signs. We are busy, pressed for time, trying to survive each day. Signs can be all around us, but we simply don’t see them.

This series is to wake us up, to open our eyes to see the signs. It is not about trying to predict the hour of Jesus’ return. It is about being ready – preparing for and following Jesus’ advice and instructions on what to do when we see them.

With enlightenment comes responsibility. There are things that God wants us to do before He sends Jesus back to rapture His followers. Let’s watch for the signs and, more importantly, let’s live obedient, faithful lives as we see the signs emerge.

Excitedly anticipating His return,

Pastor Doug



# “Signs: Deceivers, Wars, and Natural Disasters”

## Matthew 24:4-8

### Lesson 1

#### I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand the first set of signs.
- B. To help us know Jesus’ instructions regarding these signs.
- C. To help us see how to live today as we see the first signs.

#### II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. How are you doing with taking your next step to Rise Up and make your comeback?
  
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

#### III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
- B. Sermon outline: “Signs: Deceivers, Wars, and Natural Disasters”  
Matthew 24:4-8

##### 1. What are the signs?

- a. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) will ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) many.
- b. Wars and rumors of wars will be ( \_\_\_\_\_ ).
- c. Natural ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) will ( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

##### 2. What should we do?

- a. Do not be deceived by false ( \_\_\_\_\_ ).
- b. Do not be ( \_\_\_\_\_ ).
- c. Realize this is only the birth pains of what is to ( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

- C. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

- D. Additional scriptures to look at: Isaiah 13:8-12, 26:17-19; Jeremiah 30:5-6; Daniel 9:24-27.

## Lesson 1 cont.

### IV. **Community that Applies: (20 minutes)**

- A. What are some examples of modern-day deceivers claiming to be the Christ?
- B. What did Jesus mean by the sign of wars and rumors of wars? Are we seeing that today? Examples?
- C. What are some examples of famines and earthquakes today?
- D. What did Jesus mean when he said that these signs were just the beginning of birth pains? Why did Jesus tell the disciples this? What was Jesus hoping to accomplish by sharing this detail?
- E. How can you keep from being deceived?
- F. How can you keep from being concerned when going through this?
- G. What should you be doing now to be prepared for the coming of the Lord?

### V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take as a result of understanding the first signs?

### VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

Spend a few minutes praying with the person on your right over your next step.

### VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are Matthew 24:9-14.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, watch online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next LifeGroup.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

# “Signs: Persecution, Death, Hatred, and Evil”

## Matthew 24:9-14

### Lesson 2

#### I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand the second set of signs.
- B. To help us know Jesus’ instructions regarding these signs.
- C. To help us see how to live today as we see these signs.

#### II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. How are you doing with taking your next step as a result of understanding the first set of signs?
  
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

#### III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
- B. Sermon outline: “Signs: Persecution, Death, Hatred, and Evil.”  
Matthew 24:9-14

##### 1. What are the signs?

- a. Persecution and (\_\_\_\_\_).
  
- b. Hatred, betrayal, (\_\_\_\_\_) of faith, and evil.
  
- c. Many false prophets will (\_\_\_\_\_).

##### 2. What should we do?

- a. Stand firm to the (\_\_\_\_\_).
  
- b. The gospel will be preached to the (\_\_\_\_\_) of the world.
  
- c. Then (\_\_\_\_\_) the end will come.

- C. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

## Lesson 2 cont.

- D. Additional scriptures to look at: Mark 13:9-13; Luke 21:12; John 15:19-20, 16:2; Revelation 2:10.

### IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

- A. What are some examples of people being persecuted and put to death today because of their faith in Jesus?
- B. What are some examples today of people hating you or others because of faith in Jesus?
- C. What do you think the situation will look like where Christians turn away from the faith and betray and hate each other? Are you seeing or hearing of that happening today?
- D. Why do you think there will be an increase in deceivers who will deceive many people? Why did Jesus repeat that deceivers would come twice (in verse 5 and verse 11)? Why did Jesus tell the disciples this sign?
- E. How can you stand firm today?
- F. What part can you play in the gospel being preached worldwide? How can you better prepare for this sign?

### V. Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take as a result of understanding the second set of signs?

### VI. Community that Prays: (5 minutes)

Spend a few minutes praying with the person on your left over your next step.

### VII. Community that Looks Ahead:

- A. The scriptures next week are Matthew 24:15-27.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, watch online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

# **“Signs: The Abomination that Causes Desolation”**

## **Matthew 24:15-28**

### **Lesson 3**

#### **I. Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand the third set of signs.
- B. To help us know Jesus’ instructions regarding these signs.
- C. To help us see how to live today as we see these signs.

#### **II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)**

- A. How are you doing with taking your next step as a result of understanding the second set of signs?
  
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

#### **III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)**

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
- B. Sermon outline: “Signs: The Abomination that Causes Desolation.”
  - 1. What are the signs?
    - a. The abomination that causes (\_\_\_\_\_) in the Holy Place.
  
    - b. It will be (\_\_\_\_\_) for pregnant women and nursing mothers.
  
    - c. Great (\_\_\_\_\_) in the world.
  - 2. What should we do?
    - a. Those who are in Judah (\_\_\_\_\_) immediately to the mountains.
  
    - b. Pray that you will be (\_\_\_\_\_) from winter or Sabbath travels.
  
    - c. Do not be (\_\_\_\_\_) by people who perform great signs and miracles.
- C. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?
- D. Additional scriptures to look at: Daniel 9:25-27, 11:31, 12:11; Mark 13:14.



## Lesson 3 cont.

### IV. **Community that Applies: (20 minutes)**

- A. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “So when you see standing in the Holy Place the ‘abomination that causes desolation’ . . . “? Why will that cause desolation? What is the meaning of desolation?
- B. What did Jesus mean when He said, “Let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains”? Why was there such an urgency to leave?
- C. Why will it be dreadful for pregnant women and nursing mothers?
- D. Why will it be so bad if the escape happens in the winter or on the Sabbath?
- E. What examples can you think of that reflect ‘great distress’?
- F. Why is it so important for Christians to understand that these days will be cut short?
- G. How can you prevent yourself from being deceived?
- H. What can you do to be better prepared for these signs?

### V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take as a result of understanding the third set of signs?

### VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

Spend a few minutes praying as a group over your next step.

### VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are Matthew 24:29-35.
- B. If you missed Sunday’s sermon, watch online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week’s questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

# **“Signs: Atmospheric Disturbances and Sorrow”**

## **Matthew 24:29-35**

### **Lesson 4**

#### **I. Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand the fourth set of signs.
- B. To help us know Jesus’ instructions regarding these signs.
- C. To help us see how to live today as we see these signs.

#### **II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)**

- A. How are you doing with taking your next step as a result of understanding the third set of signs?
  
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

#### **III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)**

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
- B. Sermon outline: “Signs: Atmospheric Disturbances and Sorrow.”  
Matthew 24:29-35

##### **1. What are the signs?**

- a. The (\_\_\_\_\_) and moon will be darkened.
  
- b. The (\_\_\_\_\_) will fall from the (\_\_\_\_\_) and the heavenly bodies will be (shaken).
  
- c. The (\_\_\_\_\_) of the (\_\_\_\_\_) of Man will appear in the sky.
  
- d. All the nations of the earth will be filled with (\_\_\_\_\_).

##### **2. What should we do?**

- a. The (\_\_\_\_\_) will be gathered from the four winds.
  
- b. Be (\_\_\_\_\_) by the fig tree.
  
- c. When we see these things, then we will know that the (\_\_\_\_\_) is near.

## Lesson 4 cont.

- C. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?
- D. Additional scriptures to look at: Isaiah 13:10, 34:4; Joel 3:15; Mark 13:24-25; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 6:12-17, 8-12.

### IV. **Community that Applies: (20 minutes)**

- A. What do you think the sun being darkened means?
- B. What do you think the moon will not give its light means?
- C. What do you think will happen if the stars fall from the sky?
- D. What does Jesus mean by the statement, “The heavenly bodies will be shaken . . .”?
- E. What do you think is the sign of the Son of Man?
- F. What does it mean that the “elect” will gather from the four winds?
- G. How does that make you feel about the future as a follower of Christ?
- H. What is the meaning of the parable of the fig tree? Why do you think Jesus told this parable?
- I. What feeling is invoked by the statement, “When you see all these things you will know that it is near”?
- J. What do you need to do differently to better prepare for the fourth set of signs?

### V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take as a result of understanding the fourth set of signs?

## **Lesson 4 cont.**

### **VI. Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

Spend a few minutes praying as a group over your next step.

### **VII. Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are Matthew 24:36-51.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, watch online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

# **“Signs: The Unexpected Nature of Jesus’ Return”**

## **Matthew 24:36-51**

### **Lesson 5**

#### **I. Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand that we will not know the timing of Jesus’ return.
- B. To help us know what Jesus’ instructions were because of this uncertainty.
- C. To help us see how to live today because the day and hour are unknown.

#### **II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)**

- A. How are you doing with taking your next step as a result of understanding the fourth set of signs?
  
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

#### **III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)**

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
- B. Sermon outline: “Signs: The Unexpected Nature of Jesus’ Return”  
Matthew 24:36-51
  - 1. What is the nature of Jesus’ return?
    - a. His return will be unexpected like in the (\_\_\_\_\_) of Noah.
  
    - b. Some will (\_\_\_\_\_) and some will be left.
  
    - c. The Lord will come when we (\_\_\_\_\_) not expect.
  
  - 2. What should we do?
    - a. Keep watch because we do not know the day or (\_\_\_\_\_).
  
    - b. Prepare like you would for a thief coming to your (\_\_\_\_\_).
  
    - c. Be the faithful and wise servant who was saved from (\_\_\_\_\_).
- C. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

## Lesson 5 cont.

- D. Additional scriptures to look at: Acts 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3, 16:15.

### IV. **Community that Applies: (20 minutes)**

- A. What was it like in the days of Noah? How are the days of Noah like today?
- B. What will it be like for the man or woman left behind?
- C. Why is it significant that the Lord will come when we do not expect it? Why do you think God is choosing to come back like this?
- D. How can we keep watch today? What do you do today to prepare for a thief? What similarities are there to prepare for the Lord to come back?
- E. What do you need to do to be a wise and faithful servant?
- F. Do you think of how you have been saved from Hell often? Why or why not?

### V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take as a result of understanding the unexpected nature of Jesus' return?

### VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

Spend a few minutes praying silently over your next step.

### VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are Matthew 24.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, watch online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

# **"Signs: Celebration Sunday"**

## **Matthew 24**

### **Lesson 6**

#### **I. Purpose:**

- A. To celebrate what we learned in this series.
- B. To celebrate how God spoke to us in the last five weeks.
- C. To give God honor and glory due to Him.

#### **II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)**

- A. What is the next step God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

#### **III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)**

- A. What spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you the most in this series?
- B. What is one thing you learned, relearned, or were reminded of as we looked at the last five weeks of scriptures?
- C. Additional scriptures to look at: Reread Matthew 24.

#### **IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)**

- A. Before this series, what was your understanding of Jesus' return and the signs that were given?
- B. What is one sign that you think we are experiencing today?
- C. What is one thing that you learned, relearned or were reminded of that you need to do to be better prepared for Jesus' second coming?
- D. Do you feel fear or excited anticipation for Christ's return?
- E. Has this series motivated you to tell others about Jesus? Why or why not?

## Lesson 6 cont.

### V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is your next step you need to take?

### VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

Spend some time praying silently about the next step that you are attempting to take. Pray for strength, boldness, and wisdom.

### VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are Matthew 1:18-25.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, watch online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.











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