

Leader Guide

What Could Be Written About You?

Winter 2026 | Week 7

Message Date 2/22/2026

THE GOAL

This is part two of Craig's message. Unfortunately, I didn't know it would be split when I wrote last week's notes so there may be a little crossover between the ideas. But I've done my best to separate questions so that we have a different discussion than we did last week. This week's goal is to help our group recognize that faithfulness in the most difficult times is formed through preparation, stewardship, and calm confidence in God's sovereignty. Jesus teaches that while the world may feel unstable, His followers are called to endure, invest, and serve. By the end of this discussion, group members should identify where fear may be influencing their decisions and intentionally shift toward faithful preparation, wise opportunity, and Kingdom-focused effort.

MY STORY

- 1) If your life right now had a 'warning label,' what would it say?
- 2) What's something you once prepared really well for — and it paid off?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Please read the following passage and answer the following questions

Matthew 24:3- 25:46

- 1) Why does Jesus begin with 'Don't panic' when describing difficult times?
Often times I hear these types of scenarios -- our emotions want to run the show and fear is trying to take control. Jesus anchors us in a calm trust before calling us to action.

When we are at peace, we will make more rational decisions instead of making decisions out of fear. One of the things that I learned during Covid was that fear and wisdom can often make the same decision, but for very different reasons. And often times fear will make the opposite decision instead of wisdom.

2) What does endurance look like in daily life?

Some days endurance simply means showing up. It means waking up and getting out of bed, reading my Bible and talking to Jesus. It's the day in and day out steady obedience, consistent prayer, loving people, and staying committed when my emotions fluctuate.

3) What mindset leads to irresponsibility in Matthew 24:45–51?

I think it's selfishness first of all, as well as misunderstanding the Master. So often, because my master is not here, I want to do what I want. I misunderstand because I fail to see how good the Master is. When I make it about me it's always sinful. When I make it about Him my priorities change.

4) Where might you be assuming you have 'plenty of time' spiritually?

I think this is one that has lots of areas where we could be assuming we have plenty of time. As I think about my dad passing, in retrospect, I think I behaved as though I had plenty of time to have conversations about spiritual things. I did but not as many as I would like to have had. What other areas does your group have?

5) What does wise preparation require that foolish preparation ignores?

Preparation requires long-term thinking and a vision for the future, intentional investment. It also requires delayed gratification. It requires discipline -- getting up early to read my Bible, to talk with Jesus, it means I sleep less unless I go to bed earlier. Praying for others means that I'm looking outside of myself. What else does your group think?

6) How can you tell whether you are acting in faith or fear?

This is the place we have to learn to be introspective. We have to examine ourselves as though we are someone else. It's the objective questioning of, "Am I behaving a certain way?". Fear is often reactive and self-protective and it doesn't require reflection; we just behave. Faith is a choice more than a feeling. In fact, I can be afraid and still choose faith. It's much like courage. Courage is not the absence of fear. It's being afraid and doing it anyway. Faith isn't the absence of fear; it's recognizing the feeling and yet surrendering the feeling to God and being obedient.

7) What has God entrusted to you that needs investment right now?

I think one of the things we need to recognize is seasons. (Justin) I'm in a season of grief right now. It impacts my capacity. My brain doesn't function at the same speed it normally does. I'm sad. I'm angry. I'm all of the emotions of grief. This needs my investment. I need to allow myself the space to grieve so that at the end of the day I can heal and be available. I also recognize that there will be a season when this won't be as

painful or as difficult as it is right now. Because of that, there will be different areas that will need or require my investment. What seasons are you in?

Psalm 46:10–11 (NLT)

¹⁰*“Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world.*

¹¹*“The Lord of Heaven’s Armies is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress.”*

8) How does Psalm 46 re-center your perspective in unstable times?

I think the first thing it does is causes me to act. Being still is an action. In fact, I think it is one of the most difficult actions in our lives. Being still requires me to stop my reactions, calm my mind and be present with Jesus; that is this invitation. The invitation to be still and know that I am God is an invitation to calm the storm in your mind and heart and trust that He is in control and He loves you and has you. It is a reset not just for unstable times but for all times.

9) What practical Kingdom effort can you focus on instead of reacting to headlines?

I think the biggest thing I need to do is surrender the headlines. Sit with Psalm 46, be still and know He is God. From that place, I can serve others, give generously, encourage people around me, share my faith, disciple people, serve patiently, do the things in the quiet background that don’t get recognition outside of the audience of Jesus. Remain faithful. What else?

10) What do you want written about you in the most difficult times?

That I remained anchored to Jesus when things were hard, I was real and I walked through them. I loved through them. I apologized and corrected myself when I needed to. I trusted His sovereignty, and that I was an encouragement to all around me and their lives are better because I was a part of them. Really, it’s just a reflection of Jesus in those spaces. I want more of Him and less of me.

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection Questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Where do I need to be still before I begin reacting?
- 2) What opportunity requires faithful investment this week?
- 3) In difficult times, where are my efforts truly focused?