

Sept 22/24 - Serve Our World – 1 Peter 4:7-11 (Leader's Guide)

1. Have you caught yourself wondering lately if the end times are near? What makes you think that? What, if anything, is unique about the times we are living in, compared to other difficult moments in history?

This is a live question for some people. Verses like Matt 24:6-7 (there will be wars and earthquakes, etc) make it seem like we are living in the end times. But there have also been such things many times before. The point is that we don't know, and we can't let it paralyse us – rather, let it spur us on.

2. What does the Bible teach us about living in such times? What does our passage from 1 Peter say?

The Bible, especially the Epistles, says not to quit your day jobs (cf 1 Thess) but to let the knowledge that Christ is returning spur us on to love and good deeds. 1 Peter says to pray, love, show hospitality, and serve.

3. Serving our world in a time of global uncertainty can feel overwhelming. Have you felt this way when you have looked at the problems that surround us? Share with the group.

Allow a time of discussion about the weight of the world's problems.

4. How does God equip us for the work of ministry in such a time as this?

As we dwell in the vine, we are given gifts and strength to work for the healing of the earth.

5. Part of God's 'varied grace' is that we are each given unique gifts for the healing of the world. What might some of your unique gifts be? (Hint: what causes you the most pain when you look at the world's problems? How do you think your particular skills and talents could speak into that pain?)

There are no right or wrong answers to this – just an exploration of where people think they may be called (or already working) for the healing of the world.

6. Bonus question: what does OMW stand for? How can those three letters spur us on to serve our world?

OMW = "On my way"... it is a reminder that Jesus is 'on his way' – he has said that he is coming soon. We can let that knowledge spur us to make his homecoming a little bit sweeter, and feel a little more like home, as we work for the healing of the world.