

MARK 13 — STAY FAITHFUL, STAY READY

Student Handout | Read: Mark 13

Big idea: When the future feels uncertain, Jesus calls us to discernment, endurance, trust, and faithful readiness.

1. What Jesus Says to Watch For

- Misplaced security: impressive institutions and possessions can fail; God is unshakable.
- Deception and fear: do not confuse confident or viral claims with truth.
- Pressure and opposition: difficulty can become an opportunity for faithful witness.
- False saviors in crisis: fear can make people vulnerable to bold promises.
- Christ's victory: history does not belong to chaos; it belongs to Jesus.

2. Eight Clear Commands

- Do not be deceived.
- Do not be alarmed.
- Be on your guard.
- Continue the gospel mission.
- Endure faithfully.
- Trust Jesus' words.
- Do not claim to know the day or hour.
- Keep watch and do your assigned work.

3. Key Truths

- Christian peace is not the absence of trouble; it is confidence that Christ remains Lord during trouble.
- Heaven and earth will pass away, but Jesus' words will not.
- Readiness is not staring at the sky. Readiness is doing the Master's work.

4. Discernment in a Noisy World

- Check sources before sharing claims.
- Limit constant notifications and doom-scrolling.
- Pray before reacting.
- Ask whether information is producing faithfulness or merely anxiety.
- Return to Scripture instead of building beliefs from headlines.

5. Instead of... Jesus Calls Us To...

Instead of...	Jesus calls us to...
Panic	Peaceful alertness
Speculation	Faithful obedience
Blindly sharing claims	Discernment
Hiding our faith	Courageous witness
Spiritual laziness	Watchfulness
Trusting institutions	Trusting Christ
Date-setting	Daily readiness

6. Personal Reflection

Where am I most tempted to become alarmed, distracted, or spiritually sleepy?

What is one ordinary responsibility where I can practice faithful readiness this week?

My one-sentence takeaway:

Mark 13 asks not only, "What will happen?" but also, "What kind of disciple will I be while I wait?"