



**ENTER** God's presence

**Psalm 37:3-7,23-24**

- <sup>1</sup> Do not fret because of those who are evil  
or be envious of those who do wrong;  
<sup>2</sup> for like the grass they will soon wither,  
like green plants they will soon die away.  
<sup>3</sup> Trust in the Lord and do good;  
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.  
<sup>4</sup> Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.  
<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him and he will do this:  
<sup>6</sup> He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,  
your vindication like the noonday sun.  
<sup>7</sup> Be still before the Lord  
and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes...  
<sup>23</sup> The Lord makes firm the steps  
of the one who delights in him;  
<sup>24</sup> though he may stumble, he will not fall,  
for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

**Pray:** Gracious God and Eternal God, You are the Lord of all time—our past, our present, and our future rest in Your hands. As we gather around Your Word today, still our anxious thoughts and open our hearts. Teach us to look for Your presence in every moment and to prepare for the future with confident hope. Shape our minds to trust You more deeply and our lives to reflect the light of Your coming kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.



**SHARE** life together

1. What are your highs and lows since you last met?
2. When you think about the future, what emotions come up for you? Why do you think that is?
3. Share a time you were really looking forward to something but it turned out different than you expected? What did you do/learn from that?

Week beginning:  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

Worship series:  
**10,000 Reasons...**  
#3 For Anticipating The Future?



**VERSE** for the week

**“When these things begin  
to take place, stand up  
and lift up your heads,  
because your redemption  
is drawing near.”**

*Luke 21:28*



**REMEMBER** this week

**The only way to  
anticipate the future  
is to trust God will  
show up in every  
moment.**

Most of us like to plan for the future — to get organised, stay prepared, and manage what's coming next. But Jesus turns that kind of planning on its head. In His teaching about the coming kingdom, He calls us not just to prepare *for* the future, but to prepare *with* Him — to expect His presence in every moment.

Preparing with Jesus isn't about stockpiling faith or predicting the next big thing. It's about staying close to Him in the ordinary moments of life — praying when we're uncertain, responding with grace when we're tested, and trusting His promises when things feel shaky. It means being ready for the ways God might show up in any moment; in the person who needs encouragement, in an unexpected opportunity to serve, or in the courage to face something hard. Anticipating the future, then, isn't about anxiety or control, but about walking daily with the One who already holds the future in His hands.

Read **Luke 21:25-28** and **Matthew 25:1-13** [HERE](#) or in your own Bible.

4. **Try to summarise the main idea of these passages.**
5. **What verse/concept/teaching in these readings caught your attention and what was challenging/confronting/comforting about them for you?**
6. **Both passages speak about watching and being ready. What do you think Jesus wants his followers to be watching for?**
7. **In Luke 21, Jesus tells his followers to “stand up and lift up their heads.” What kind of attitude or mindset do you think He’s calling for here?**
8. **In Matthew 25, half of the group ran out of oil and missed the bridegroom’s arrival. What might that ‘oil’ represent in our lives today?**



Athletes who compete at the Olympic level don't just focus on the big event once every four years. Their daily routines — what they eat, how they train, when they rest — are all shaped by the goal they're anticipating. Every choice reflects their commitment to the future they're preparing for. In the same way, Jesus calls His followers to live each day with the future in view — not with fear or guessing games about what's coming, but with steady, faithful preparation for His return and His work in the world today.

Throughout the gospels, Jesus talks about the 'Kingdom of Heaven' or 'Kingdom of God' in two distinct ways. One as a future event when Jesus himself returns “the Kingdom of heaven *will* be like...”, but the other way he talks about it is as a present reality. In fact, the present reality is mentioned far more regularly across Matthew, Mark and Luke's gospels. Jesus says things like “the kingdom of heaven *is* like...” and “The kingdom of God is at hand/here/among you.”

Take a quick look also at [Luke 10:8-9](#).

9. **If following Jesus is like training for a future goal, what kind of ‘training habits’ help you to stay spiritually fit and focussed?**
10. **If, like Jesus says to the 72 disciples he sent out in Luke 10, the kingdom comes near every time Jesus’ disciples bring healing and forgiveness in His name, what might it look like to anticipate, or be prepared, for the daily opportunities God asks you to be the means by which his kingdom comes?**
11. **In what ways do fear or distraction pull us away from consistent preparation? How can trust in God’s promises and anticipating final fulfillment of Christ’s victory help us to refocus?**



## LIVE purposefully

### MAKE IT REAL:

The athlete analogy is helpful when we think of the future as some far off, singular event like the Olympics. But the reality is that the future is every moment that God has planned out ahead of you. And when you are a follower of Jesus, with the Spirit of God at work in you, everywhere you go and everything you do becomes an opportunity for God to bring his kingdom in every moment. In this way, we might think of following Jesus more like an emergency service worker who trains and prepares to respond to whatever the next emergency is they are called to attend.

12. **In Christ, we know our future is secure. What happens if you shift your focus from preparing for your own future to anticipating the return of Christ and what it might mean for those who do not yet know him as Lord and Saviour?**
13. **How easy or difficult do you find it to anticipate or expect God to turn up when you feel called to step out or take a leap of faith? How would you prepare/train to make that easier?**
14. **Can you think of anyone or any situation where God might be calling you to bring his Kingdom presence? What would you need or want God to do if you followed Him into that situation? How might you prepare to do that?**

Plan your weekly devotions or [download the Church Central app](#) for the daily **LifeWay Devotions**



## PRAY intentionally

- **Praise the Father**, for his faithful daily provision of all our needs.
- **Thank Jesus** for making God's faithfulness personal – for his saving work in the past and his continued presence with us today and the certain hope he gives for our future.
- **Ask the Holy Spirit** to help you see God at work in every moment of your day.
- Pray for all of LifeWay as we continue to grow into God's plans and purpose for us as his people as we live his love, share his hope with all, and grow in grace together.



## BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross on their forehead or on the palm of their hand as you say...

**[Name], May your life shine the light of the Kingdom of God in every moment. Amen.**