

GOD'S GOT THIS | 11-22-15

REFLECT & DISCUSS

Our world is in chaos. Threats of terrorist attacks tempt us to live in fear, refugees fleeing for their lives tug at our hearts, and wars and natural disasters wreak havoc on families and communities. When we stare chaos in the face, we can sometimes lose heart. How have you been feeling about the chaos in the world around us? How do you work through feelings of despair? What helps you hold on to hope? How do you think God feels about all this?

READ: *John 16:31-33*

Jesus warns His disciples of a time coming soon where they will experience heartache that will scatter them. He instructs them of these things so they will have peace. How is it possible to have peace when the world is in chaos? How do you feel about Jesus promising us we will have trouble? How does knowing Jesus has overcome the world help us to take heart?

READ: *Hebrews 12:28-29*

In your own words, describe what God's Kingdom is. According to these verses, why should we be thankful and worship God with reverence and awe? How does gratitude change our perspective? What does it mean that God is a consuming fire? What does He consume?

READ: *Matthew 16:15-19*

Who do you say Jesus is? How should this affect the way we approach chaos? After Peter says Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells Peter who he is. If you were Peter, how would you feel hearing what Jesus said to you? What does it mean to have the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven? Were those keys meant for us to have as well? What should we do with this incredible authority Jesus gives to us? How can we impact the chaos around us with this kind of influence?

CHALLENGE

Every time you are tempted to slide into despair when you encounter what's going on in the world, remind yourself and those around you to take heart, because God's got this!

PRAYER

Jesus, you are the eye of the storm. In the wind and waves around me, help me to keep my eyes focused on you so I can be at peace and walk on water.