



TIPPING POINT

WHAT IS THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH?

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Focus The End Times are here. Jesus will rapture the Church before the tribulation to unite Christians with Himself and deliver Christians from the wrath of the tribulation.

Fun How good are you at waiting? What is one thing that you willingly waited a long time for and why?

Review Key Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 1 Corinthians 15:50–53

1. What is the rapture of the Church?

The rapture is when Jesus Christ will snatch away His bride, which is every Christian. The rapture will happen in a split second before the tribulation. During the rapture, Christians are caught up together with Christ in the clouds.

2. Why is there a rapture of the Church?

The rapture of the Church will unite Christians with Jesus to be with Him forever. The rapture will deliver Christians from the wrath of the tribulation, which is the wrath of God upon a rebellious and immoral world. Children under the age of 13 will also be raptured.

3. When will the rapture occur?

The Feast of Trumpets is connected to the rapture of the Church. Scripture links the rapture with the blowing of a trumpet. Trumpets signify a new beginning, and the “Day of the Awakening Blast” refers to the shofar sounded at the resurrection of the dead. The rapture is a selective event, and Jesus will

remember those who have received Him as their Lord. He will remember us and save us from the tribulation.

Group Dynamics Idea Give an opportunity for anyone who wants to renew their commitment to Jesus. Pray for one another to have boldness and to be light and salt to those around us during the End Times.

Discuss

1. When did you first hear about the rapture? What did you imagine it would be like?
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 and Matthew 24:30. What are you most looking forward to about Christ's return?
3. Are you more likely to wrestle with complacency toward Christ's return or over-analyze the End Times?
4. If you were to make a list of people you would want to pray for and share Jesus with before the rapture, who would be on your list?
5. Are you ready for Christ's return? If you're not sure you'll go to heaven when you die, ask someone in your group to help you pray this prayer, "Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I ask You to forgive me for all of my sin. Come into my life and be my Lord and Savior. Thank You, Jesus, for saving me today."

Take Home As we conclude, remember:

- The end is drawing near.
- Jesus is coming to rapture the Church.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You that Jesus is returning for us, His bride. Thank You for making a way for every person to be saved. Help us share the gospel with anyone who doesn't know Christ. Help us to be bold and active in seeking the

lost so they may know the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ! In Jesus' name,
Amen.

New Leader Tip Ask your group members what specific areas of need they have and how the group can either support them through prayer or practical service. Then encourage your group members to be the body of Christ by meeting those needs or comforting one another.