



Discussion Questions

1. We identified some common reactions when we get overwhelmed by the brokenness of the world: escaping (like the Wild Roots community), freezing (becoming a bystander), or just hunkering down until Jesus returns. Which of these tendencies do you default to most often when the news or your surroundings feel too heavy?
2. Read Luke 21:28-31. The Greek word for "stand up" means to "unbend oneself" or straighten up, which Luke also uses to describe the healing of the crippled woman in Luke 13. In what areas of your life or spiritual posture do you feel a bit "bent over" by fear, cynicism, or exhaustion? What does it look like practically for you to let Jesus "unbend" you so you can look around?
3. Jesus reframes the chaos of the world not as a death spiral, but as birth pains (Mark 13:8). How does shifting your perspective from "the world is dying" to "the world is giving birth to something new" change how you experience the hard things in the news or in your personal life?
4. In the parable, the budding leaves on the fig tree are a sign that summer is close, meaning good things are on the horizon even when winter has been long. When you look around your immediate context (your family, workplace, or neighborhood), where do you see the leaves budding—small signs of God's goodness, beauty, or grace breaking through?
5. We often think of the word "near" in terms of time (Chronos—meaning soon). But in the parable it's likely Jesus means near in terms of space (Kairos—meaning closeby). How does it reframe your daily routine to view a messy, broken situation not as a problem to avoid, but as a Kairos moment where God's kingdom is close by?
6. What is a hard place that you see in our world right now where Jesus might be inviting you to step directly into the mess to help bring His peace and restoration?