

HOW TO SURVIVE THE END OF THE WORLD

1. Trouble Ahead | Discussion Notes

Read John 16.33 together and then watch the Summary Video.

- What worries you most about the state of the world right now? Why? Does it feel like the end of the world as we know it - or is this business as usual?
- "In this world you will have trouble." Is it encouraging or depressing that Jesus gives us this heads up? Have we considered this side of Jesus' teaching before, or have we assumed that being a Christian is a ticket to a life of blessing?
- The End of History. Have you come across this idea of human progress - that there's a steady evolutionary process moving us all towards a more enlightened, prosperous and peaceful future? Why do we tend to buy into these types of narratives?
- Philip talked about a peace that is ongoing (active present tense) and immune to circumstances. Do you think it's possible to have peace in the middle of trouble? Have you experienced this yourself or seen it in others?
- Philip also says that this peace is active. It requires courage. It would be easy for any of us to feel fearful or discouraged right now. What does it mean in your situation to 'take heart'? How can you work this out in practice?
- "I have overcome the world." How can we share the good news with those around us that there is someone who has already overcome any and all problems, pains and tragedies we can face? Does this time of global crisis give us an opportunity to share the peace that Jesus offers? If so, how?

BIG IDEA: Jesus tells us not to be surprised by times of trouble. Instead, he calls us to be courageous and find our peace in him, even in the worst troubles of the world around us.

Break down into groups of two or three and share the things that cause you most anxiety or challenge right now. Pray for each other to take heart and find peace in Jesus. Share the names of one or two friends you each know that you wish could know Jesus. Pray for opportunities to share a story of faith and give an invitation to find out more. Pray for the new Alpha course starting next week.