

Saint Raymond Church - Small Group Member Guide
Week Four – Week of December 2nd, 2018
First Sunday of Advent

1. Welcome and Ice Breaker

- a. Welcome!
- b. Ice breaker: “What is a favorite family Christmas memory that has remained with you through the years?”

2. Opening Prayer

3. Gospel Reading

- a. Gospel for Sunday 11/25/18 (First Sunday of Advent) Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

²⁵ Jesus said to his disciples: “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

³⁴“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise ³⁵like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. ³⁶Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”

4. Quiet Reflection

5. Small Group Discussion Questions

- a. What is one insight that you gained from the homily preached on this Gospel (this morning/last Sunday)?

- b. Some may feel that the second half of this Gospel is not applicable since they do not carouse/party, or excessively drink or worry. However, there may be other tribulations (“anxieties of life”) that can also catch you like a trap. What are those for you? How do you respond to these anxieties?

- c. This week’s Gospel warns about our hearts becoming drowsy. Instead we are to remain alert and vigilant for the coming of our Lord. Prayer is offered as a means of strength. What other things might you do for strength to stay alert and focused on Christ?

- d. This Gospel is similar to one from two weeks ago (Mark 13:24-32). Both Gospels state that the end of this world will come at an unexpected time. Ways for you to prepare if Christ were to return immediately or in one year were discussed at that meeting. Think back and how you decided to personally prepare. What was it, and how have you put it into practice in the last two weeks?

- e. We are told that “people will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world”. There may be things in our world that scare you now. What are they? Who or what gives you courage to go on when things seem to be falling apart?

<p>6. This Week I Will.....</p>
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7. Honorable Closure

- a. Reminders/Announcements
 - i. Confessions this weekend after Masses - a great way to prepare for the coming of the Lord.
 - ii. Have you downloaded the app? Thoughts?
- b. Sharing by person who completed a new action from prior meeting
- c. Gathering of Prayer Intentions
- d. Closing Prayer