

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, November 17, 2024 (Pentecost 26)

Daniel 12:1-3

Discussion Starters

1. For Daniel and his readers, what is the good news in this passage? What is the bad news?
2. This is the first and only time that "everlasting life" is used in the Old Testament. What does that tell you about the beliefs of the Jews? How do you communicate that truth to people who don't believe there is anything after life on this earth?
3. How does Daniel's picture of the end times compare with what you find in the New Testament?
4. What does the phrase "lead many to righteousness" mean? How does that happen?
5. Daniel seems to suggest that eternal life is somehow connected to tribulations. What do you think about that?

Hebrews 10:11-18

Discussion Starters

1. What are the differences between the old sacrificial system and the new one, as described in this text?
2. How did the sacrifice of Jesus make future sacrifices unnecessary?
3. Look closely at verse 14. In what sense are Christians already perfect even though we are still in the process of becoming that way? How should this reality shape the way in which we live?
4. Why could the old sacrificial system never take away sins (v. 11)?
5. Verse 17 differentiates between "sins" and "lawless acts." What is the difference?

Mark 13:1-8

Discussion Starters

1. What made the temple so significant for the disciples? What would its destruction mean to them?
2. How would the destruction of the temple be a good lead-in for Christ's teaching about the end times?
3. What events does Jesus say might deceive the disciples into thinking the end times had begun? What do such things actually signal?
4. Is this passage a comfort or does it cause distress?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?