INTRODUCTIONS

For *Just Like the Days of Noah*, you should probably schedule 1-1 ½ hours to spend together in order to have adequate time for prayer and discussion. The time frame, however, depends on your situation and group genre.

Spend the initial week that you come together on introductions. Get acquainted. Have tea, coffee and even appetizers if possible. The first item on the agenda is to explain that one of the benefits of gathering in Jesus’ name is be able to pray for one another. Explain what your method for taking prayer requests will be. I suggest you pass around a tablet so that each person can write their prayer requests down as you talk. That requires less time than what it would take for each person to verbalize their request and also provides you with a written copy for reference. However, ALWAYS give the class an opportunity to share openly if someone needs immediate prayer coverage. Either you or someone else can take those prayer requests home, set up a group email and send them out weekly. Make sure they know that any prayer requests written on the tablet will go out to the group. Then, encourage your group to print off the Prayer Requests that they receive by email and keep them in their Bibles for accessibility.

*Note: If someone doesn’t have an email account, then allow them to see the tablet before leaving or mail them a copy.*

It is extremely beneficial to play some kind of “Get-to-Know-You” game for the first few weeks. Keep it simple and non-confrontational. For instance you could go around the room, have people state their names, then reveal what their favorite color is and something they own in that color. The next week, ask how many states (and countries) they have lived in and what they are. The following week, you might ask what magazine they like to read and why. You get the idea… they are getting to know each other through questions like these.

Always open in prayer – you take the lead in this unless you have prayer warriors who are comfortable with stepping into that role.

Then, introduce the book, *Just Like the Days of Noah*. You might even want to read the **Preface** (at least the first 2 paragraphs) or have people take turns reading the entire segment. Give them a chance to make comments. This study will prepare and get them excited about the Lord’s return. We should be excited, not afraid. The rule and reign of Jesus Christ is the promise God gave us to anticipate. It is the event that will change the course of history.

Take them to the **Contents** page and explain. There are 7 weeks of study. Five of those weeks have basic observation worksheets to fill out. Weeks 3 and 4 do not have worksheets because we deviate from Matthew 24 on those weeks to the books of Daniel and Revelation. We have to do that to understand the Abomination of Desolation. The text says, “Let the reader understand.” We have to go to Daniel and Revelation in order to understand it.

Point out the subtitles included in the **Appendix**. All of these are referred to in the study except for the **Journal** at the end, which is provided for writing insights as God impresses and inspires. Be sure to include the date when you journal! This is for personal use, not class discussion.

Finally, read and explain the **Layout** on page *xv*. Only three days of study are required each week. The first week is very easy, with the lessons getting a little more involved as we move along. What I am trying to accomplish is this… adequate time for cross referencing. Scripture interprets Scripture for us but we have to do the cross referencing to find that out. Most everyone today has time restraints which makes life in general a challenge. Please relate this for me: there are many things we can do with our time such as working, cooking, gardening, socializing, playing games, etc., but there is nothing more important than spending time with God in His Word. Twenty to thirty minutes a day is not too much to ask. God has given us eternal life. We can give Him thirty minutes a day. We will be abundantly blessed in the process and strengthened beyond measure in the application of His truth.

Please stress the importance of staying away from all commentaries until **after Week Five**. Otherwise, they will forfeit the opportunity to hear from God without interference. God will not yell at us above the din of noise to get our attention. He speaks quietly and gently when we humble ourselves before His sovereign throne with open hearts and minds.

It is not necessary but you could even work through the first day of Week One, showing them how to fill out the Worksheet. They are to read all of Matthew 24 first (p. xvii) and then Matthew 24:1-14 on the Worksheet (p. 15). Have them fill in the blanks on the right side. Sections 3 and 5 on the right side are already complete. Basic observations are key to good interpretation.

Note the timeline at the bottom of the Worksheet. What Jesus describes in verses 1-14 characterizes our world prior to verse 15, which points to the Abomination of Desolation. Jesus described the false christs, wars, rumors of wars, famines and earthquakes, as the “beginning of birth pangs.” Therefore, these events will occur sometime prior to the Abomination of Desolation. Jesus commands us not to “be deceived” or “afraid” of these “beginning of birth pangs.” That is why we are studying His teaching, so that we can avoid deception and fear. In weeks 3 and 4, we will look at the passage in Daniel that reveals when the Abomination of Desolation occurs – halfway through a seven year tribulation period.

Other observations can be made on the Worksheet besides those noted on the right hand side. Encourage them to look for repeated words, phrases that stick out as important. Mark them with colored pencils. Then, make lists from these repeated words/phrases on a separate sheet of notebook paper and slip it into the workbook. Note anything that sticks out to you. God may be speaking directly to you through His text.

**Very important…**Don’t attempt to answer anything that is not being covered in the text as we move through this study. If you do, then you will get sidetracked and lost in a maze of…*Which way do we go?* **Stick to the simplicity of Christ’s timeline.** That is the beauty of Matthew 24 and this study. Christ simplified things for us in His teaching on end times. We don’t have to grasp all of the Old and New Testament prophecies to understand His timeline.

Tell people to note their questions as we move along and ask them later if they are not covered by the end of **Week Six**. If you don’t know the answers by then, you can always Contact Us for help on our website at: [*www.justlikethedaysofnoah.com*](http://www.justlikethedaysofnoah.com/)*.* This site was built as a supplement to the study. However, do not encourage your class to go there until after finishing *Just Like the Days of Noah* because most of that material would be considered commentary. Thank you for helping to prepare others for the coming of the Lord!

May God greatly bless you as you do! Love, jan