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# Understanding Our Present Time

World Outreach Church  
Sermon Discussion Guide  
For the week of January 10<sup>th</sup> 2021

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## *Here's what's happening this week.*

- Wednesday night service, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 6pm, Saturday service, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm Sanctuaries inside and outside available.
- Food trucks will be on campus Wednesday night, and Saturday night.
- Sunday Morning Service will be at 9:30am. Inside and outside sanctuaries available.
- **WOC Ice Rink Open**- Check wochurch.org for updates.
- Go to <https://youtube.com/user/worldoutreachchurch> for Sunday's message.

## **I. The Present Time**

Romans 13:11 (NIV®)

<sup>11</sup> And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

**We are a nation in need of healing. God is the only one that can bring deliverance. As believers we are on assignment to bring light and truth of God to the world. We have been asleep and allowed wickedness to increase. Now we are awake and have much work to do.**

1. Our awareness today is different than a year ago. Where do you have wisdom today that you did not last year?

**Don't Be Afraid. This is not about forfeiting our future it is about gaining a kingdom. Jesus is inviting us to a new kind of life following Him without reservation. Learning Jesus' perspective is a struggle and difficult to understand. We have a promise for help in our preparation...the Holy Spirit!**

**Persecution is part of our assignment just as in the day of Acts. We need to consider this in order to finish well.**

Acts 4:18-21 (NIV®)

<sup>18</sup> Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. <sup>20</sup> For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." <sup>21</sup> After further threats they let them go.

Acts 5:40-42 (NIV®)

They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup> The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. <sup>42</sup> Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

2. In spite of the threats the gospel of Jesus was being wide spread. Where do you see God moving in the past six months differently? What victories have you experienced?
  3. What are you praying about right now?
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Acts 6:8-10 (NIV®)

<sup>8</sup> Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called) --Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen, <sup>10</sup> but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.

Acts 8:1-3 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup> Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

4. Stephen was so full of the Holy Spirit...Jesus enabled great wonders and signs to be performed through him. This year we are learning to choose the Lord in new ways. In what ways are you embracing the Holy Spirit?
5. With tenacity Stephen proclaimed the gospel. Who do you know that doesn't know the Lord and could use you to help them?
6. Begin to pray this week that God would open an opportunity for you to share the gospel.

Revelation 1:17-18 (NIV®)

<sup>17</sup> When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

2 Peter 1:13-16 (NIV®)

<sup>13</sup> I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, <sup>14</sup> because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. <sup>15</sup> And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. <sup>16</sup> We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22 (NIV®)

7. How have you learned to follow the Lord in the face of disappointment?

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-17 (NIV®)

8. The only thing that will overcome the power of evil is God's power. What can we do as Christ followers to make an impact in our community, our nation, and in our homes?

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

In your great mercy and wisdom you have called us out of darkness and welcomed us into the Kingdom of your Son. Now see the threats which surround us and grant us the boldness to complete our assignment. Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation that we may know you better. Open our hearts to receive all that you have for us. Lead us away from temptation and deliver us from evil. Let Jesus' name be lifted high and His glory fill the earth, amen.