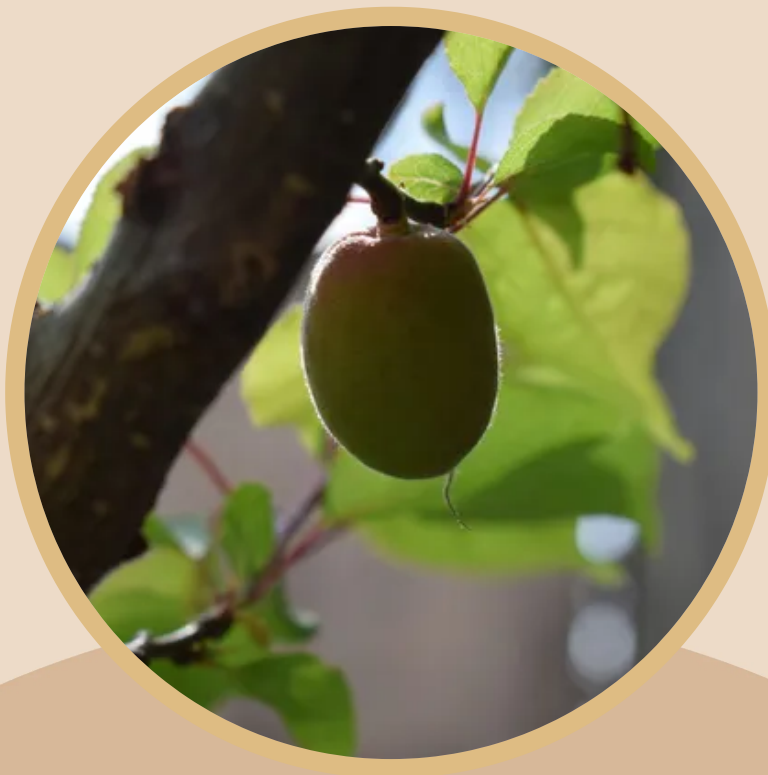




Living Expectantly: Lessons from the Fig Tree



Explore Matthew 24:32–35 to discern the times and live with hope and readiness for Christ's coming.



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Introduction

The Gospels invite us into the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, revealing truths that transform how we live daily. Among His many parables and signs, *the Fig Tree Lesson* in **Matthew 24:32–35** stands out as a powerful call to awareness and readiness.

Jesus uses the fig tree as a vivid metaphor: just as one knows summer is near when the fig tree's branches become tender and its leaves sprout, likewise, believers are called to discern the signs of the times — the events pointing to His return. This teaching reminds us to live intentionally and expectantly, avoiding complacency and instead embracing a vibrant faith.

In this study, we'll explore the layers of meaning in Jesus' words, unpacking the call to discernment and the promise embedded in His assurance that Heaven and earth will pass away, but His words will never fail. We will learn how to recognize spiritual seasons, remain vigilant, and grow in hope as we anticipate Christ's coming with faith-filled hearts.

As we journey through these passages, allow yourself to be challenged and encouraged: to live each day with purpose, to watch for God's movement in the world, and to hold fast to the eternal truth of Jesus' promises. This is a study about awakening, expectation, and the joy found in a faith that looks confidently forward to the future God has prepared.





Day 1: The Fig Tree's Lesson on Discernment



Day 1: 🌿 The Fig Tree's Lesson on Discernment

Your Verse

Matthew 24:32 - "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Mark 13:28 - "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near."*
- *Luke 21:29 - "He told them this parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees.'*



Devotional: Discernment: Watching for God's Signs

Jesus' analogy of the fig tree calls us to active spiritual discernment. Just as people observe nature to know the change of seasons is near, Jesus encourages us to watch the signs unfolding around us—and within our hearts. The fig tree's budding leaves symbolize something new and hopeful arriving, much like the promise of Christ's return.

Discernment requires attentiveness—seeing beyond the surface to understand God's timing and purpose. It challenges us to stay spiritually awake amidst a world filled with distractions and confusion. This teaching is both practical and prophetic, inviting every believer to cultivate sensitivity to God's movements.

Are we noticing the 'twigs getting tender' in our lives? This means being open to growth, change, and the unfolding of God's plan. It also means recognizing warnings and encouragements God sends through Scripture, circumstances, and community. When we learn this lesson well, we live expectantly, preparing our hearts and lives for what God will do next.

Today's invitation: Reflect on your own spiritual awareness. Are you discerning the times with clarity and faith?



Reflect and Apply

1. What are some signs or moments in life where you've recognized God's timing?

2. How does staying attentive to spiritual 'seasons' impact your daily faith?

3. In what ways can you cultivate greater sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's guidance?



Journaling Prompts

1. Describe a time when you sensed God's leading clearly like the tender fig tree twigs.

2. Write about what distractions might be keeping you from discerning the times.

3. List practical steps you can take to grow in spiritual attentiveness.



Day 1: 🌿 The Fig Tree's Lesson on Discernment

Prayer for Today

Lord, help me to see with eyes of faith and discernment. Open my heart to the signs You give and give me wisdom to understand Your timing. Teach me to live expectantly, prepared for Your coming, and to trust in Your perfect plan. May my life reflect readiness and hope as I watch and wait. In Jesus' name, *Amen.*





Day 2: 🕒 Living Expectantly in Every Season



Your Verse

Matthew 24:33 - "Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door."

Supporting Scriptures

- *1 Thessalonians 5:6 - "So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober."*
- *Romans 13:11 - "And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber..."*



Day 2: ⌚ Living Expectantly in Every Season

Devotional: Embracing Hope: Living in Expectation

Recognizing that the moment is 'near, right at the door' urges believers to embrace a lifestyle of expectation and readiness. Living expectantly challenges passivity—it's an active stance marked by faith, hope, and vigilance.

The Apostle Paul urges us in his letters to stay awake spiritually. This wakefulness is not mere alertness to worldly events but a deep awareness of our calling and the nearness of Christ's return. Expectancy shapes how we face challenges, how we prioritize our time, and how we minister to others.

When we live expectantly, every season—whether of waiting, growth, or trial—takes on new meaning. The promise of Christ's coming fuels perseverance and joy. It frees us from fear because we know God controls history's unfolding timeline. True expectancy is a confident hope that colors our character and decisions.

Today's encouragement: Adopt an expectant heart. Invite God to shape your perspective so you live with purpose and joyful anticipation every day.



Reflect and Apply

1. How does knowing Christ is near affect your attitude toward daily life and challenges?

2. What does spiritual wakefulness look like for you personally?

3. In what ways can you encourage others to live expectantly in faith?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write about what it means to you to live with ‘the door right at the door.’

2. List habits or attitudes that support a lifestyle of spiritual readiness.

3. Reflect on how your hope in Christ influences your decisions and priorities.



Day 2: ⌚ Living Expectantly in Every Season

Prayer for Today

Father, teach me to live expectantly and awake. Help me to embrace each moment with hope and joy, knowing Your promises are sure. Stir in me a heart that watches for You with confidence, not fear. May my life reflect the reality of Your nearness every day. In Jesus' name, *Amen*.





Day 3: The Enduring Promise of Jesus' Words



Your Verse

Matthew 24:35 - "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Isaiah 40:8 - "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."*
- *1 Peter 1:25 - "But the word of the Lord endures forever." This is the word that was preached to you.*



Devotional: Anchored in the Eternal Word

Jesus' assurance that His words will never pass away serves as the foundation for our faith and hope. In a world of constant change—where the heavens and the earth themselves will someday fade—His promises remain unshakable and eternal.

This truth brings comfort and confidence. It reminds us that while circumstances and seasons shift, the words of Christ stand forever as our guide, refuge, and anchor. As we discern the times and live expectantly, anchoring ourselves in His Word keeps us grounded and focused.

Living by this truth means holding firmly to Scripture and trusting God's promises, especially during uncertainties. It means sharing the hope of Christ's enduring word with others, spreading light and encouragement in times of darkness.

Today's challenge: Commit to God's unchanging Word as the compass for your journey. Let it empower you to live expectantly and faithful to the end.



Reflect and Apply

1. How does the promise of Jesus' enduring words strengthen your faith?

2. In what ways can anchoring in Scripture help you discern the times better?

3. Are you sharing the hope of God's Word with those around you? How?



Journaling Prompts

1. Reflect on a promise from God's Word that has sustained you.

2. Write how you can deepen your commitment to living by Scripture daily.

3. Describe how the eternal nature of His Word influences your view of the future.



Day 3: 📖 The Enduring Promise of Jesus' Words

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for Your unchanging Word. In a shifting world, You are my constant and my hope. Help me to trust Your promises fully and to live each day anchored in Your eternal truth. Empower me to share this hope with others and to keep watch with faith and joy until You return. In Jesus' name, *Amen.*





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