Marinating In God's Word

Matthew 24:36-44

As we enter into the first Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves in the season of preparation as we look forward to Christmas. The season of Advent is a very intentional time in the life of a Christian, in that it rhythmically calls us to draw near to the source of our hope and comfort, Emmanuel, God with us.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- 1. What are the emotions or concerns you personally have internally as you read this passage? How does this passage draw us towards a posture of hope?
- 2. Jesus calls us in v. 44 to "be ready" for the coming of the Son of Man. How does the season of Advent and Christmas help us to do this? What is the significance of annually returning to this preparation or time of readiness?
- 3. What rhythms or traditions do you or your family have that helps you prepare for Christmas? Are you planning on doing something new this year? If you could come out Advent this year having grown closer to Jesus in some way, what would that look like? Would these be something that your Life Group could commit to praying over Advent for one another?

Next week we'll focus on Mt. 3:1-12