



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 10: Returning
Suggested Week of Use: November 5, 2023
Core Passage: Mark 13:24-37

News Story Summary

For American researcher Mark Dickey, the days spent in a Turkish cave last September felt like an eternity. Despite being surrounded by other cavers at his team's base camp 3,000 feet below the surface, Dickey still wrestled with moments of uncertainty. Survival became his sole focus. An experienced caver and rescuer, Dickey realized something was wrong when he began to experience stomach trouble early in the project. Eventually, he began vomiting blood. His fiancée went back to the surface for help. Meanwhile, as he grew weaker, Dickey shifted between a fight to survive and coming to terms with possible death. All he could do was wait for help. In the end, the wait paid off. An international team of rescuers reached Dickey. They stabilized his condition before getting him out of the cave and to a hospital for further treatment ten days after the ordeal began.

For more about this story, search “American rescued from Turkish cave.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, read the story of American Mark Dickey, who was rescued from the Turkish cave earlier this year. Ask: *How would you survive waiting for rescue if you were trapped in a cave?* Give the group time to discuss. Affirm that waiting for anything is not natural for human beings, so waiting for a rescue would be even harder. Point out that, as Christians, a key element of our faith involves waiting for a “rescue.” Share that in today's session, the group will examine what Jesus had to say about His return in Mark 13 and how believers should respond as they wait.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind the class of the story about Mark Dickey's rescue from a cave in Turkey. Encourage adults to discuss this question in groups of two or three: *What kind of preparations do rescue workers make to ensure a successful mission?* After a few minutes, allow adults to share their thoughts and record their responses on the board. Ask: *How would these compare to preparing for Jesus's return?* Discuss responses. Challenge individuals to identify one step they can take this week to prepare for Jesus's return. Emphasize that while we do not know the specific date or time of His return, we know He's coming back—so we need to be ready when it happens.