

D I S C U S S I O N   G U I D E

ALLEN JACKSON

BIG  
TROUBLE  
AHEAD

A REAL PLAN *for* FLOURISHING

IN A TIME OF FEAR AND DECEPTION



# INTRODUCTION

1. Why is Easter “the pivotal event in the Christian story”? How might this be apparent in worship services on Easter Sunday?

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2. What do you think it means that freedom and liberty “come from almighty God”? How does that differ from the idea that freedom and liberty are bestowed by governments?

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3. In what ways did you see God's blessings during the COVID-19 pandemic?

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4. What is tribulation, and what is its role in the Bible?

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5. Why do you think followers of Jesus are not without hope?

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6. Do you agree that "there is big trouble ahead" in the world? Why or why not?

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## CHAPTER 1

## OUR TRUST ERODED

1. In what ways have you witnessed bold and open displays of deception?

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2. In what ways did the COVID-19 pandemic affect your life?

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3. In what ways has deception entered the church?

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4. Which of the deceptions described in this chapter have impacted you the most, and why?

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5. Do you agree that “the only answer to deception” is truth? Why or why not?

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6. Where do you turn when you need to feel hopeful, and why?

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7. Why is it important to be aware of God’s work around you?

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## CHAPTER 2

THE CHURCH SHAKEN  
AND CHURCH EXPOSED

1. In what ways has the church in America been shaken?

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2. In what ways are comfort and convenience idols?

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3. How might comfort and convenience make us sluggish and ineffective as Christians?

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4. What is “cheap grace”?

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5. What is holiness, and why is it important?

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6. Why can we not compare our righteousness with the righteousness of other people?

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7. Do you believe it is important to talk about God's judgment? Why or why not?

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8. What do you think it means to be ambassadors for the kingdom of God?

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## CHAPTER 3

## THE POWER OF ONE

1. Describe the results of Adam's actions and how Jesus redeems and restores us.

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2. How would you define "biblical worldview"? Why do you think those with a biblical worldview are often mocked?

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3. What are some reasons that might prevent Christians from standing up for truth and righteousness?

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4. Why do you think it is important to know that God works through His people?

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5. How does it make you feel to know that God works through you?

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6. When have you seen someone step out in faith to do God's work?  
How did that person inspire you?

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## CHAPTER 4

# FUNDAMENTALS MATTER

1. What can we learn from Jesus' parables of the two builders?

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2. Why do you think it is important to “know the Word of God and do what it says”?

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3. Why do you think believers are not protected from the storms of life?

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4. In what ways have you grown in your faith because of hardships and trials that you've faced?

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5. What are some things we can do to focus on the fundamentals of Christianity?

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6. What is prayer, and why is it important?

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7. When have you witnessed the power of prayer?

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## CHAPTER 5

## INSIDE INFORMATION

(A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW GIVES INSIGHT)

1. Why do you think we often question God and His directions for us?

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2. Why do you think it is difficult to distinguish Christians from non-Christians today?

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3. What is the difference between studying the Bible academically and applying it to our lives?

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4. What do you think it looks like to align one's life with the Bible?

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5. Why is forgiveness important?

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6. What can we learn about Jesus from his "I am" statements?

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## CHAPTER 6

# KNOW THE RIGHT PEOPLE

1. What does it mean to believe in Jesus? How is the biblical teaching to believe in Him different from the teachings of other religions?

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2. In what ways is Jesus a gift from God?

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3. In what ways is the Holy Spirit a gift from God?

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4. Why do you think it is important to understand that believers are a unified body rather than a bunch of individuals?

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5. What preconceived notions do you have about the Holy Spirit?

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6. What can we do to identify and set aside our preconceived notions about the Holy Spirit?

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7. How does it make you feel to know that God is with you and is working on your behalf?

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## CHAPTER 7

# THE PATH OF THE STORM

1. Which of the “storms” in this chapter concerns you the most?

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2. What is truth? Why do you think it is tempting to bend the truth or “misremember” it?

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3. What are the dangers of socialism and Marxism?

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4. What do you think is contributing to lawlessness in America?

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5. How have you responded to these “storms” in the past? How would you like to respond to them in the future?

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## CHAPTER 8

# GETTING READY

1. Why is it important to be spiritually prepared to be able to help others?

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2. If you grew up in a Christian family, how was your faith defined by how your family worshiped?

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3. What is “inherited faith”? How is that different from following Jesus?

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4. In what ways does applying Scripture require commitment?

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5. What do you think it looks like to open your heart fully to God?

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6. What are some things we can do to remain alert for evil around us?

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7. In what ways did Jesus model forgiveness in the Bible?

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8. What helps you stay the course when you are faced with trials?

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## CHAPTER 9

WE ARE STRONGER  
TOGETHER

1. What does it mean to you that God is our Provider? How can focusing on that truth help us overcome fear and anxiety?

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2. Why is it important to know that we are all sinners?

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3. When have you witnessed or heard about the gospel's ability to transcend cultural barriers?

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4. What do you think it looks like to be salt and light?

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5. What are some obstacles that sometimes prevent us from being salt and light? How can we overcome those obstacles?

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6. Why is it important to share how Jesus has worked in our lives?

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7. Who in your life might need to hear your Jesus-story?

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8. What do you think it means to be a “spiritual hotspot”?

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## CHAPTER 10

STRENGTH, COURAGE,  
AND HOPE

1. Who has inspired you with their faith and dependence on God?

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2. What does God's faithfulness mean to you?

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3. What does it mean that God is purifying us?

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4. What is discipline, and what role does it play in our faith?

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5. In what ways do you see God purifying the church today?

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6. What are your favorite verses to turn to when you need courage and hope?

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## CHAPTER 11

# EYES ON THE PRIZE

1. What do you think it means to “press on” in faith?

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2. Why do you think it can be difficult to stay focused on spiritual things?

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3. What are some things we can do to help loosen our hold on material things?

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4. What can we learn about faith from the biblical account of Daniel?

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5. Why is “the indifference of the faithful” a problem in the world?

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6. What are the temporal rewards for faithfully following Jesus?  
What are the eternal rewards?

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## CHAPTER 12

# STAND AND BE COUNTED

1. What do you think it means to “battle for righteousness”?

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2. In what ways is trust “the antidote to fear”?

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3. Why do you think it is important to understand that we all have kingdom assignments?

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4. What are some ways we can help others learn about God in our daily lives?

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5. What is spiritual armor, and why is it important?

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6. What does it mean to persevere? When have you been inspired by someone's perseverance?

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7. What legacy would you like to leave? What changes can you make today to start building that legacy?

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8. In what ways did this book inspire you?

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