

**Message.**

When seemingly permanent foundations crumble, the call is for discernment rather than panic. In a world marked by chaos and suffering, steadiness is found not in escaping reality, but in an endurance anchored by faith. As global anxiety grows and love becomes scarce, this hope drives a mission of urgency and compassion. Because Jesus reigns now and will return, His followers can withstand a shaking world with a quiet confidence that transforms trials into a witness of enduring love.

**Prayer.**

"Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken". (Ps 62:2)

**Scripture.**

Matthew 24:1-14

**Engage.**

Matthew 24:1-2.

The disciples were captivated by the beauty and scale of the Temple. Why do you think Jesus responded by predicting its total destruction? What "permanent" things in our own world are we tempted to trust more than God?

Matthew 24:4-5.

Jesus' first warning isn't about the disasters themselves, but about deception. Why is discernment the most important skill for a believer when the world feels like it is falling apart?

Matthew 24:6-8.

Jesus describes wars and earthquakes as "the beginning of birth pains." How does the imagery of birth pains change the way we view suffering and global chaos? (See Ps 46:1)

Matthew 24:9-10.

In times of intense pressure, Jesus warns that many will "fall away" and "betray one another." What causes faith to brittle under pressure, and how can we build a faith that endures?

Matthew 24:12.

Why does an increase in "lawlessness" or chaos often lead to a person's love growing cold? How have you seen anxiety or fear kill compassion in your own life lately?

Matthew 24:13.

What does "enduring to the end" look like in a practical, daily sense? How do we balance waiting for Jesus to return with the command in Galatians 6:9 to not grow weary in doing good?

Matthew 24:14.

Despite the grim descriptions of the end times, Jesus says the Gospel *will* be proclaimed to the whole world. Does the current state of the world make you feel more urgent about the mission, or more tempted to hide?

Application.

Based on this passage, what is one "shaky" area of your life where you need to replace panic with the steady hope that Jesus is currently reigning?

## Day 1: The Strongest Foundation

**Focus:** Discernment vs. Panic (Matthew 24:1–2)

**The Hook:** Ask your child, "What is the biggest and strongest thing you've ever seen? A skyscraper? A giant bridge? A mountain?"

**The Scripture:** Read **Matthew 24:1–2**. Explain that the disciples were showing Jesus the Temple, which was the most beautiful and "unshakeable" building they knew. But Jesus told them it wouldn't last forever.

**The Lesson:** Sometimes, things we think will last forever (like our favorite toys, our school building, or even our favorite sports teams) can change or break. Jesus wasn't trying to scare them; He was reminding them that He is the only foundation that never cracks. When things change, we don't have to panic because we belong to the King who stays the same.

**Discussion:** "If your favorite thing in the world broke tomorrow, would Jesus still be on His throne? Why does that give us peace?"

**Prayer:** "Jesus, thank You that You are stronger than any building or mountain. Help us trust You more than the things we can see."

## Day 2: Birth Pains and Big Hope

**Focus:** Endurance, Not Escape (Matthew 24:6–8)

**The Hook:** Show a picture of a construction site or a messy garden being dug up. Ask, "Does this look like a disaster or a project?"

**The Scripture:** Read **Matthew 24:6–8**. Focus on the phrase "birth pains."

**The Lesson:** Jesus says that when we hear about wars or see scary things on the news, it's like a mother having "birth pains." Those pains are hard and they hurt, but they mean something beautiful is coming—a baby! When the world feels chaotic, it's not just falling apart; it's "groaning" because Jesus is preparing to return and make everything new. We don't have to run away in fear; we can endure because we know the "ending" is actually a beautiful new beginning.

**Discussion:** "When you feel scared by something you hear on the news, how does it help to know that Jesus called these things 'birth pains' instead of just 'the end'?"

**Prayer:** "Lord, when the world feels loud and scary, remind us that You are in control of the 'project.' Give us the strength to keep going."

## Day 3: Keeping Your Heart Warm

**Focus:** Urgent Love and Mission (Matthew 24:12–14)

**The Hook:** Put an ice cube in a cup of warm water and watch it melt. Or, talk about what happens to hot cocoa if you leave it out in the snow.

**The Scripture:** Read **Matthew 24:12–14**.

**The Lesson:** Jesus warned that when people get scared and mean, many people's love will "grow cold." They stop caring about others because they are too busy being afraid. But Jesus wants our love to stay "hot"! He says that even when things are hard, we have a job: to tell the whole world the Good News. Our love for others is like a light in a dark, cold room. It shows people that Jesus is King.

**Discussion:** "How can we show 'urgent love' to someone this week? Who is someone who might be feeling 'cold' or scared that we can pray for?"

**Prayer:** "Jesus, don't let our love grow cold. Fill us with Your Spirit so we can be brave and kind, telling everyone that You are the King who is coming back."