

# Welcome to **CHURCH!**

We are glad you chose to join us today to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope that your stay will be both meaningful and memorable.



We are a church that seeks to bring glory to God, to build the local church through discipleship and to fulfill the Great Commission.

Here are some activities going on with us!

## **Lenten Retreat 2026**

You are invited to join our **annual Lenten Retreat** to be held during the **Holy Week**. In order to accommodate more people, we will have **two batches**. There is a registration fee of **P3,000.00**.

**Batch 1: March 30-April 1, 2026**

**Batch 2: April 2-4, 2026**

## How can we **pray** for you?

Inviting you to join our **Prayer Meeting, Tuesdays at 7PM**. You may **send your prayer requests** and **praise reports** by text (0912 130 6148), by writing them on the prayer cards provided, or by sending us a private message on our Facebook page.

## Discover life with our **Small Groups**.

Looking for **deeper connections** and a **closer walk with God**? Our small groups are where we cultivate meaningful relationships and grow in faith together. Want to join? Visit our Information Booth after the service to find the perfect group for you!

## Stay for **fellowship** and **refreshments**.

Stick around after the service for **coffee** and **connection**! It's the perfect chance to meet some friendly faces, learn more about our small groups, our ministries, and discover all that our church has to offer. We'd love to see you there!

## Free **Blood Pressure** and **Sugar Check-up**.

Encouraging those who wish to monitor their Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar levels to **avail of our free check-up**, happening **every after Sunday service**!

## **Ways to give tithes and love gifts.**

BPI Checking                      **0421-0041-16**  
Paypal                                **@livingwordnra**  
GCash Account                    **0912-130-6148**

## **Sunday Services**

**English** 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM

**Cebuano** 4:00 PM

**2nd Floor,  
Northgate Center.**  
across Gaisano Country Mall  
Banalad, Cebu City.

 @lwnra       livingwordnra@gmail.com       0912 130 6148 (Text only)  
 @livingwordnra       www.livingwordnra.com       (032) 517-5991 (Office)



**LIVING WORD NRA**  
*Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.*

## **THE DAYS OF DISTRESS**

Until He Comes: The King Prepares A Watchful Church.

Mark 13:14-23  
Ptr. Nic Sy

March 15, 2026

## SERMON NOTES

### **I. DON'T FREEZE - HEED THE URGENCY.**

*One of the most dangerous spiritual postures is that of assuming there will always be more time.*

*When Jesus shows clear danger, wisdom responds quickly.*

**Reflect:** What would be hardest for you to leave behind if obedience to Jesus required it?

### **II. DON'T FEAR - HOLD ON TO HIS SOVEREIGNTY**

*Jesus loves his disciples too much to let them assume that faithfulness and comfort will always travel together.*

*Tribulation may be severe, but it is never sovereign.*

*Biblical endurance grows out of confidence in the character of God.*

**Reflect:** When life becomes heavy, the story we tell ourselves about God matters.

### **III. DON'T FOLLOW - HANG ON TO JESUS**

**Reflect:** When you feel afraid or unsettled, where do you instinctively look first for reassurance?

**Reflect:** What voices are shaping your understanding of the future more than the words of Jesus?

*Do not wait for the day of deception to begin building discernment.*

# “THE DAYS OF DISTRESS”

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of March 16–22, 2026

## GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

If you had to evacuate your burning house in two minutes, what is the one non-essential thing you would be most tempted to go back for?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

### Read Mark 13:14-23

1. In verse 14, Jesus says, “*let the reader understand,*” and then tells those in Judea to flee immediately. What does that phrase suggest about the need for alertness? Why do you think Jesus gives such urgent instructions here? What does this teach us about the importance of taking Christ’s warnings seriously rather than casually?

2. Read Daniel 9:27, 11:31, and 12:11 alongside Mark 13:14. How does Jesus’ reference to the “*abomination that causes desolation*” connect his warning to earlier biblical prophecy? What does this show about God’s control over history? How does seeing prophecy unfold strengthen your confidence in the authority and trustworthiness of Jesus?

3. In verses 19-20, Jesus speaks of distress unlike anything before it, yet also says the Lord has “*cut short*” those days for the sake of the elect. What does this teach us about the sovereignty of God in the midst of tribulation? How is God’s sovereignty different from the idea that suffering is meaningless or random? When life feels heavy, what story do you tell yourself about God?

4. In verses 21-23, Jesus warns that false christs and false prophets will appear and try to deceive. Why do you think deception becomes especially powerful in times of fear, confusion, or suffering? What kinds of “false saviors” do people tend to look to today, whether spiritually, culturally, or personally? How can we learn to recognize when something is pulling our trust away from Christ?

5. Jesus says, “*do not believe it*” and “*be on your guard.*” What practical habits help a believer grow in discernment rather than gullibility or paranoia? How do Scripture, prayer, sound teaching, and Christian community protect us from deception? In a world of constant content, voices, and opinions, what helps you stay anchored in the voice of Jesus?

6. Looking at the whole passage, Jesus prepares his disciples for urgency, endurance, and discernment. Which of those three do you most need from the Lord right now: urgency in obedience, endurance in suffering, or discernment in confusion? Why do you think that is the area that stands out to you? What would it look like to respond to Jesus faithfully in that area this week?

## NEXT STEPS

*We need a fixed gaze on Christ. We need the kind of hearts that trust him quickly, endure under him steadily, and listen to him carefully.*

- **Trust Quickly.** I will obey urgently instead of delaying what God has already said.
- **Stand Firm.** I will endure steadily, remembering that suffering is real but God is still sovereign.
- **Guard Carefully.** I will discern wisely by testing every voice by Scripture.
- **Stay Close.** I will build daily habits that keep me anchored in Christ.

## CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for hearts that obeys quickly to Christ’s warnings, endure trials under God’s sovereign care, and remain discerning against every voice that pulls us away from Jesus.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who’s going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

### BIBLE READING GUIDE

March 16	<b>Mark 13:14-23</b>
March 17	<b>Daniel 11:29-35</b>
March 18	<b>2 Thessalonians 2:1-12</b>
March 19	<b>John 10:27-30</b>
March 20	<b>Deuteronomy 13:1-4</b>
March 21	<b>Psalms 95:1-11</b>
March 22	<b>1 Thessalonians 4:16-17</b>

