Keep Awake
Mark 13:1-37
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NOTES

Suggested Questions for Individual
Study or Group Discussion*

- What has been your exposure to people/leaders/movements who maintain certainty about their interpretation of signs and circumstances as an indication of the end times?

- Reread vv. 5, 9, 23, and 33. How do you understand Jesus' repetition of the word "beware" or "be alert" or "take care"? Which translation's word choice do you prefer, and why?

- Reread vv. 32, 33, and 35. Jesus is underscoring the mysterious moment of the divine intervention. Why is it so hard for people—both historically and more contemporarily—to be okay with mystery and uncertainty?

- In verse 10, Jesus declares, "The good news must first be proclaimed to all nations." In the midst of this discourse about the end times, Jesus does not lose sight of the mission he has given his disciples: they are to preach the gospel. What does it look like for you—as one of Jesus' disciples—to continue being vigilant with carrying out this responsibility (this mission) still today?

- Spend some time in prayer, seeking to awaken to God's hope and wisdom.

For Family Discussion: In the story "The Boy Who Held Back the Sea" by Lenny Hort, Jan is a mischievous little boy who is also attentive to details. The guards along the dyke in his town don't pay him any attention because of his previous troublemaking, but Jan notices a small crack in the dyke, allowing water to flow through and eventually become a flood. Jan acts to prevent this, plugging the hole with his hand, and stays there, guarding it, through the stormy night, until more help arrives. Just as Jan paid attention to the details, and stayed awake through the night, so, too, we must pay attention the details of Jesus' kingdom, and remain awake and alert to his coming. What can you do this week that will help you pay attention and stay awake to God?

*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.