

Get Ready!

Jesus is Our Coming King

By: Kristen Ramsey



Text

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54

Key Quest Verse

Jesus said, “I’m on my way! I’ll be there soon!” (adapted from Revelation 22:12 – The Message).

This verse will help the students remember the promise of Jesus that He will return and His return is coming soon. Remind them that it is important to be ready for the return of Jesus. Learn the memory verse with actions! Have the students “march” in place as if they are going somewhere while they say, “I’m on my way.” Have the students point to their wrists as if pointing to a watch while saying, “I’ll be there soon.”

Bible Background

The second coming of Christ to the Earth is something that is promised throughout the entire Bible. Indeed, it is even mentioned more often than His first coming! Because God has promised Christ’s literal return, we can be sure it will happen. The only uncertainty is when. Matthew 24:36 says, “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son but only the Father.” Jesus Himself has not been told when He will return. Only God in His infinite wisdom knows and will decide when the time is right.

What matters is our response to the waiting. Non-believers will be caught off-guard by His return. But, Christians can wait with eager anticipation, living each day to His glory. We won’t merely be eyewitnesses to this historical event, but we will participate in it with Christ. We will be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and we will be changed from mortal to immortal! (2 Thess. 4:17; 1 Cor. 15:51-54).

We await our coming King with excitement and joy, for He brings our reward with Him. “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what they have done” (Rev. 22:12). What a joyous day when we see our precious Savior face to face.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:**

- Know:** The meaning of resurrection and the promises that Jesus made regarding His return to earth.
- Feel:** Anticipation and excitement about the return of Jesus.
- Do:** Think about what they need to do to get ready for the return of Jesus.

Leader's Devotion

I recently read a story that analyzed the difference between hawks and mice. The writer pointed out that the hawk is a symbol of the big picture of life, as a hawk soars high above the earth and sees great distances, scanning the ground for food. The mouse symbolizes worry and scrutiny, as a mouse is small and close to the ground, scurrying around looking for food and constantly scurrying away from its enemies to avoid becoming food for them.

Sometimes we all get stuck in the rut of day-to-day living and become so focused on what is going on around us that we take our eyes off of the prize that God has promised. It is so easy to get caught up in our jobs, the problems that we face, the never-ending housework, and even church activities that we become like the mouse, losing sight of the big picture, the hope that we have in the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. Several times in the New Testament, Jesus' return is compared to the coming of a thief in the night, and in Matthew 24, Jesus advises us to keep watch, because we do not know on what day He will come. Many will be caught off-guard by His return, but we as Christians can wait in eager expectation to see our Lord coming in the clouds, knowing that we will be caught up with Him and changed from mortal to immortal! In order to do this, we must remember to keep the focus on Jesus and not allow day-to-day things to cloud our view. We should strive to be more like the hawk, focusing on the big picture and the future reward of eternal life in God's Kingdom rather than focusing on the small things that distract us from the prize.

Get Set!



Option A

CELEBRATION

Materials: Items that represent a birthday celebration. (Examples: party hats for each child, balloons, streamers, party favors, birthday cake, candles, etc.)

Procedure: Ask your students if they know what the items in the room are used for. Ask them if they have ever had a birthday party. Let them talk about their birthday experiences. Ask your students if they look forward to their birthday coming. Ask them how they know that their birthday will come again next year. Ask the students what they do to get ready for a birthday party. Send invitations, decorate, buy gifts, bake a birthday cake, etc.

Introduce the lesson by saying, **today’s lesson tells us about something that we can look forward to. Much like we look forward to our birthdays coming each year, we can look forward to the return of Jesus Christ to the earth. We know that Jesus is coming back to earth, because He made a promise to us and He does not break His promises. Today we are going to learn about the promise that Jesus will return to the earth and some things that we should do to get ready for His return.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

WHAT TIME IS IT?

Materials: Alarm clock that rings or buzzes, pillows, blankets. (Pillows and blankets are optional.)

Procedure: Ask your students if they know what an alarm clock is used for. If they are unsure, explain that it is used to wake us up in the morning and tells us when it is time to get up and get out of bed. Have the students pretend to sleep (you may use pillows and blankets) and tell them that when the alarm goes off, you want them to show you how they get up in the morning when their alarm goes off or when their moms and dads or family members wake them up. Set the alarm to go off in one or two minutes and let the students pretend to sleep and get up.

Introduce the lesson by saying, **in today’s lesson we are talking about what will happen when Jesus returns to the earth. He promises that He will raise or “resurrect” Christians from their graves to meet Him in the air. His coming will be like an alarm clock for those who are asleep in Christ . . . but an alarm that will wake the dead! The alarm we used this morning can’t wake the dead, only Jesus can do that. Today we are going to talk more about what will happen when Jesus returns to the earth and raises the dead and what we can do to be ready when He comes.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



Get Set!

Bible Story

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, adapted from The Message)

Girls and boys, we want you to understand what happens to people after they die, we don't want you to be confused. First of all, you should not be sad when people die, as if there is no hope! Since we know that Jesus died and was raised from the dead, we also know that God will raise those people from the dead who died knowing Jesus! Jesus promised us that He will come down from heaven and call out with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God! And, when He blows that trumpet, it will be an alarm to wake the dead! Those who have died knowing Christ will rise first. Then, all of us who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet Jesus in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So, encourage each other with the words of Jesus' promise!

Story interaction: Have the students interact with the story by listening carefully for the words "Jesus" and "God." Have the students make a cross by crossing two fingers over each other to form a + shape every time they hear the word "Jesus." Have the students point up toward Heaven where God is on His throne every time they hear the word "God."

Go!**Jesus is Coming****MUSIC****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

Today we have learned about the promise of Jesus that He will return to the earth and raise from the dead those who died knowing Him, and bring with them those of us who are still alive and know Him. This song will help us remember that Jesus *is* coming and we need to be ready!

Procedure: Jesus is Coming (To the tune of “Freres Jacques” or “Where is Thumbkin?”)

(Have the students use the same motions as used with the Key Quest Verse, marching in place on “Jesus is coming” and pointing to imaginary watches on their wrists on “coming soon.” Repeat the song several times.)

Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming,
Coming soon, coming soon
Will you be ready?
Will you be ready?
When He comes, when He comes

Close

Ask the students, **what can YOU do to be ready for Jesus when He returns to the earth?**
Allow each of them to respond verbally.

Prayer: Thank You, Jesus, for the promise that You will return to earth. Please help us to be ready for when You return. Amen.

Go!**Meeting the Lord in the Air****OBJECT LESSON**

Materials: Enough helium balloons for each student to have one, a permanent marker

Quest Connection

The Bible explains that when Jesus returns to earth, all of us who are alive and those who have died knowing Him will meet Him in the air! We can't fly up into the air today to see what that will be like, but we are going to let balloons float up into the air instead to represent us meeting the Lord in the air!

Procedure: Give each child a helium balloon with a string attached. Help the students write their names on the balloons. Take the students outside with their balloons, have the students hold the balloons low to the ground, then let them go together on the count of three. Allow the students to watch their balloons float away for as long as they can see them. Explain that their balloon is doing what they will do when Jesus returns and they meet Him in the air.

Close

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You for the promise that we will meet You in the air and we will return together to the earth. Help us to be ready for the day when You return.

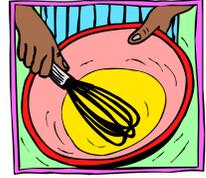
Go!**Get Ready!****GAME****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

We have talked a lot about Jesus' promise that He will return to earth, but we don't know when it will happen. That is why we need to be ready at all times for the return of Jesus. Just like in the game, "Duck, duck, goose," you don't know who will have to be the "goose" and run around the circle, we don't know when Jesus will come back to earth.

Procedure: This game is played just like "Duck, duck, goose," but with different words. Have the students sit cross-legged in a circle. Explain to them that we are going to play a game like "Duck, duck, goose," but we are going to change the words to the game. Have the students replace "duck, duck," with "get ready, get ready," and replace "goose!" with "Jesus is coming!"

Close

Prayer: Lord Jesus, please help us to be ready for the day when You will return to earth.

Go!**Wake Me Up Snacks****FOOD: Check for food allergies!****Materials:** Rice Krispie Treats, cut into small and large circles (using biscuit cutters or drinking glasses of different sizes), Twizzlers, colored icing in a tube, kitchen scissors**Quest Connection**

We learned that when Jesus returns to earth, He will call out with a loud voice and with the trumpet call of God, and it will be like an alarm to wake the dead! We are going to make a snack that looks like an alarm clock to remind us of what Jesus' return will be like.

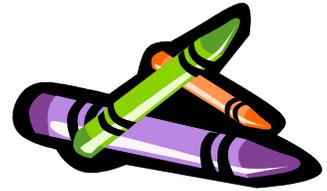
Procedure: Prepare Rice Krispie Treats before class, cut them into circle shapes. The small circles should be about $\frac{1}{4}$ the size of the large circles. The small circles will be attached to the large circle to look like the bells on an old-fashioned alarm clock. It may be helpful to assemble an example beforehand for the students to look at, or to bring along a real “old-fashioned” alarm clock for the students to see. Also before class, cut the Twizzlers into smaller pieces for the students to use for the hands of the clock, number markings on the clock, and the feet on the clock. The pieces for the hands should be longer than the pieces for the number marks and the feet.

During class, give each student a paper towel or paper plate to use as a work surface. Give each student a large circle Rice Krispie Treat and two small circle Rice Krispie Treats. Give each student six short Twizzler pieces and two longer Twizzler pieces. Help the students assemble the pieces to make the alarm clock. Use the icing to attach the clock's hands, number marks, and feet.

Eat and enjoy!

Close

Prayer: Lord, help us to be ready for Your return and to listen for the sound of the alarm when You come back to earth!

Go!

The Earth Will Be Restored**WALK**

Materials: Blank paper, crayons

Quest Connection

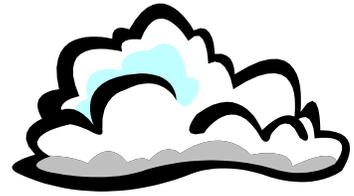
We are going to take a walk outside to look at God’s beautiful creation.

Procedure: Take your students on a walk around the outside of the church. Point out to them that although God’s creation is beautiful, after people sinned, the earth was no longer perfect. Have them look for thorns and weeds, as well as litter outside. Bring the students back to the classroom.

Have the students share what they saw outside. Explain to the students that things like thorns, weeds, and litter are not intended to be part of God’s perfect creation. Tell the students that after Jesus returns to the earth, the earth will be made perfect again, the way it was when God first created it. Have the students use the paper and crayons to draw a picture of what they think the earth will look like when it is made perfect again.

Close

Prayer: Lord, we look forward to the day when the earth will be made perfect again. But, until then, help us to do a good job taking care of Your creation.

Go!**Coming With Clouds****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: White paint (acrylic or tempera), one large piece of blue construction paper, paper plates, newspaper, Resource Page “Coming with Clouds,” glue sticks

Quest Connection

Can anyone tell me where Jesus is going to come from when we see Him again? (Heaven.) He is going to come with the clouds! We are going to make a picture today to remind us to be ready for that wonderful day when Jesus comes back to earth!

Procedure: Depending on the ability of your students you may want to pre-cut the picture of Jesus from the Resource Page. Have student color the picture. Help the students tear a sheet of newspaper in half and crumple it up tightly. Cover the bottom of the paper plates with white paint. Have students hold one side of the crumpled newspaper, press the paper ball into the paint and then onto the blue paper. The blue paper is the sky, and the white are the clouds. Have the students glue the picture of Jesus onto the paper with the glue sticks.

Close

I want you to take this beautiful picture home and hang it up somewhere so that it can remind everyone in your family that Jesus is coming!

Worksheet

Circle the pictures of what people who know Jesus will feel like when they see Him returning to the earth! Cross out the pictures of how the people who *don't* know Jesus will feel like when they realize that it is too late to be part of His Kingdom.



Worksheet

The Bible says that when Jesus returns to earth, He will stand on the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem. Draw a picture of Jesus on top of this mountain.



Worksheet

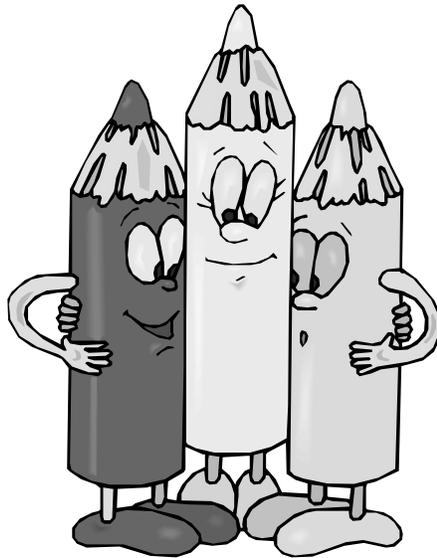
The Bible says that when Jesus returns, we will have a fantastic feast with Him! What kind of food would you like to have at the feast? Add your favorite food to the table.



Journal Page

Journal Page

Draw a picture of how you will feel when Jesus returns to the Earth to establish the Kingdom of God.



Jesus said, "I'm on my way! I'll be there soon!" (adapted from Revelation 22:12 - The Message).