

*Get Ready!***Jesus is Coming Again!**

By: Julie Gallagher

**Text**

Acts 1; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:2; Matthew 24:36-51

**Key Quest Verse**

“This same Jesus will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).

**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! (1 Thessalonians 4:17; 1 Corinthians 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 he has done” (Revelation 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:** Jesus is coming back to earth.
- Feel:** Want to be ready for His coming.
- Do:** Tell others that Jesus is coming back.

### Leader's Devotion

Read Matthew 25:14-30. The parable of the talents should make us stop to think about how we're using our talents for the Lord. Using our talents often requires risk. We sometimes might be required to invest our time and energies in something outside of our comfort zone. Are you ready and willing for the Lord to use you in the way He wants? Pray this week that God will open your heart and to help you see what He has in store for you.

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**Get Set!**

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**Option A****VISITORS****Materials:** None

**Procedure:** Have you ever had someone special come to your house for a visit like a grandparent or cousins, or good friends? They didn't get to stay there forever, did they? Did you make plans for them to come back again? Sometimes we make plans for people to come and visit. What kinds of things do you have to do to get ready for company? (Clean your room, get some snacks, help clean the house, etc.) I get really excited when someone is going to come and visit. As their visit gets closer, I start counting the days until they come. and I work to be sure I'm ready for them to come. In our story today we're going to learn about someone else who is coming. Listen to see if you can tell me when He is coming.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

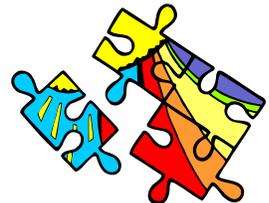
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**Option B****PUZZLES**

**Materials:** Prepare four different shapes made of four different colors of construction paper (i.e. red circle, green square, blue triangle, orange rectangle). On each shape write one word from the following phrase: "Jesus is Coming Soon." Cut each shape into 3-4 puzzle type pieces. Hide the pieces around your classroom.

**Procedure:** Today we have some puzzles to put together, but first you're going to have to find the pieces. I've hidden the pieces around the room. Find all the pieces and then work together to put the puzzles together. Give them time to do this. What is the message? Jesus is coming soon! We're going to talk about how Jesus is going to come back to Earth someday in our story.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



**Get Set!****Bible Story**

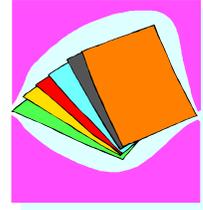
**Teacher Tip:** Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

**Materials:** Shoe box covered with blue paper (for the sky) and with cotton balls attached (for clouds). Hold the shoe box long ways, then cut the bottom off. Prepare picture of Jesus. Punch a hole in His head and tie some yarn or string through the hole. As you tell the story, pull Jesus up into the sky (box) when He ascends, and lower Him when you talk about Him returning to Earth.

**When Jesus was alive, He spent a lot of time teaching His disciples. He taught them how to live and how to treat other people. He also spent a lot of time talking to them about what the Kingdom of God would be like and how to know when it would be coming. He told them about signs to watch for and that they should always be ready. One day, after Jesus was raised from the dead, His disciples were asking if the Kingdom was coming right now. He told them that they weren't supposed to know exactly when, but they were supposed to tell others about Him. While He was talking to them, He started to go up into the sky! They watched Him go up into the clouds and disappear! While they were still staring into the sky, an angel appeared and said, "Why are you looking up into the sky? This same Jesus will come back in the same way you have seen him go up into heaven."**

**The disciples were amazed and thought about some of the things Jesus had told them about when He would come back. They remembered that He had said that no one knows when He will come back except for God. Jesus doesn't even know when He'll come back. They also remembered that Jesus had told them to always be ready, because His coming would be like a surprise. Jesus told them to watch because there would be some things that would happen to lead up to His coming.**

**Later on in the Bible, a man named Paul wrote about when Jesus will come back. He tells us that Jesus will come down from heaven with a loud shout and with the trumpet call of God. Then, the people who have died will be raised from the dead and then we will live together with Jesus forever. We're going to talk later on about what it will be like to live with Jesus forever.**

**Go!****Jesus is Coming****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**Materials:** Shoe box for each child, blue construction paper, cotton balls, yarn or string, picture of Jesus, hole punch

**Quest Connection**

Today you're going to make your own box so that you can tell others about how Jesus is coming back again.

**Procedure:** Help children make shoe boxes into the sky like the prop used in the Bible story. Let children practice telling the story using their boxes.

**Close**

Now we have a great tool that we can use to tell others about Jesus. Do you have any friends who don't know about Jesus? This week let's tell them about Jesus, and that He is coming back soon.

**Go!****Red Light, Green Light****GAME**

**Materials:** Two flashlights, red and green cellophane or tissue paper to cover the flashlights, slips of paper with children's names written on them

**Quest Connection**

Does anyone remember when Jesus is coming back? Oh, that's right! No one knows. One day soon God's going to look at Jesus and say it's time to go. We're going to play "Red Light, Green Light" to help us remember that even though God's light is red right now, soon it will be green and Jesus will come back! How is Jesus going to come back? Just like He went up. Let's practice our memory verse together: "This same Jesus will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

**Procedure:** Mark a start and finish line. Have the children line up at the start. Turn off the lights. When the teacher shines the green light the children may move ahead. When the red light shines, they must stop. If anyone keeps going, they have to go back to the start. While the light is red, draw a name and see if the child can say the memory verse. Give help when needed. The object is to learn the verse together. Continue until someone reaches the line. Let children take turns shining the lights.

**Close**

Prayer: Thank You, God, that one day soon You'll send Jesus back to the earth.

**Go!****Are You Ready?****MUSIC**

**Materials:** Song, “Jesus is Our Coming King”

**Quest Connection**

Jesus told His disciples that His coming would be like a surprise. We don’t know exactly when He is coming, but we’re supposed to be ready. In this game, you’re going to have to be ready for your turn.

**Procedure:** Have children sit in a circle. Choose one child to be “It.” As the class sings the song, “It” walks around the outside of the circle tapping children on the head. At the word “ready,” the child tapped must jump up and chase “It” around the circle. That child will be the next “It.”

Sing to the tune of “London Bridge:”  
Jesus is our coming King,  
Coming King, Coming King.  
Jesus is our coming King.  
Are you ready?

**Close**

Just like we were always ready to jump up and chase the “It,” we want to be ready for when Jesus comes back. Will Jesus find us living like He told us to? Let’s try to treat others like Jesus would this week.

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**Go!**

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**Eye on the Sky****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**Materials:** Two toilet paper rolls for each student, colored masking or electrical tape, markers

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**Quest Connection**

Do you remember what the angel told the disciples after Jesus went up into heaven? Jesus would come back in the same way He went up. We're supposed to be watching and ready for Jesus to come at any time. Let's make some binoculars to help us keep our eyes on the sky.

**Procedure:** Tape the toilet paper rolls together. Let the children decorate their binoculars with the markers and any other craft supplies you might have.

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**Close**

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to be watching for Jesus to come back and to be ready when He comes.

**Go!****Billowing Clouds****FOOD**

**Materials:** Prepare blue Jell-O ahead of time, whipping cream, whisk, electric mixer, bowls and spoons

**Quest Connection**

The Bible tells us that Jesus went up into the clouds, and that He'll come back the same way. Wouldn't it be neat to be looking up at the clouds and all of a sudden see Jesus coming down out of the clouds? We're going to make a yummy treat today and try to make our own clouds.

**Procedure:** Pour some whipping cream into a bowl. Let children take turns whisking it. When they grow tired, or when time is running short, finish up with the electric mixer. Beat until light and fluffy. Serve as clouds on the blue Jell-O. You may want to try this ahead of time to see how much whipping cream to use and how long it will take to achieve the fluffiness desired.

**Close**

This week take a few minutes to look at the clouds. Instead of just looking for shapes, try to imagine what it will be like to see Jesus coming back.

**Go!****Pass the Penny**

## SCIENCE

**Materials:** Mason jar, water, tub, pennies

**Quest Connection**

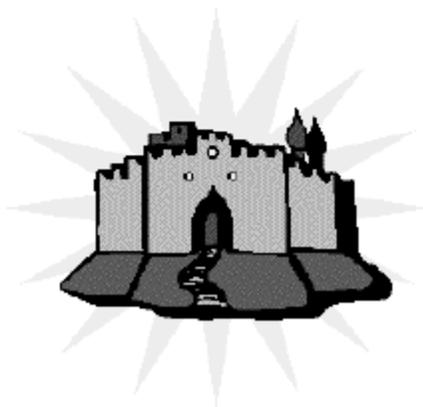
**How many pennies do you think it will take to make the water overflow?** Record each child's guess. **Let's give it a try and see.**

**Procedure:** Place the jar in the tub and fill it within 1/4-1/2 inch from the top with water. Test this at home to know how much water you'll want to start with and about how many pennies you'll need. You might be surprised at how many pennies it will take. Line the children up and have them recite the memory verse, each child saying one word at a time. If they get their word correct, give them a penny to place in the jar. Continue until the water overflows.

**Close**

**Did anyone guess correctly?** Lots of people have tried to guess exactly when Jesus will come back, but no one really knows when it will be. Did you notice that the jar got really full and it looked like the water would overflow sooner than it did? The water almost looked like it was sitting on top of the jar. Well, sometimes we see things happen that look like Jesus is coming back right away, but really we have still a little while to wait. I'm just so glad that, just like the water eventually ran over the side of the jar, Jesus is coming back to be our King.

**DRAW A PICTURE OF  
YOUR FAVORITE PART  
OF THE KINGDOM.**



**Behold, I will create new  
heavens and a new earth.  
Isaiah 65:17a**

The words from our memory verse are all mixed up! Can you write the verse in the correct order? Use your Bible if you need help.

ISAIAH 65:17a

CREATE AND BEHOLD NEW A  
HEAVENS I EARTH WILL NEW.

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**Add these numbers to give you the code you need to find out about the Kingdom of God.**

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$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ +3 \\ \hline \end{array} = E$	$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ +2 \\ \hline \end{array} = F$	$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ +1 \\ \hline \end{array} = H$	$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ +3 \\ \hline \end{array} = I$
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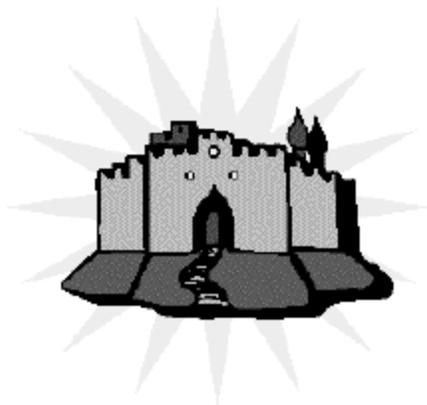
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# Journal Page

**LISTEN AS YOUR TEACHER READS  
REVELATION 21:9-27.  
DRAW WHAT YOU THINK  
GOD'S HOLY CITY WILL LOOK LIKE.**



**Behold, I will create new  
heavens and a new earth.  
Isaiah 65:17a**

## LET'S CLEAN UP!!

When Jesus comes back we're going to have a new heaven and a new earth. Right now our earth is pretty junky. Clean out the junk to see the message that's left.

T@H\*ER&E #W^I\*L%L B@E N@=O J\*U\$N@K  
=I%N #T\*H@E K#I^N&@G^DO\$M O&F %G#O\*D.  
#W%E \$W^I@LL &L^I\*V\$E FO%RE#V^E@R  
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