



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 7: Coming Events

Scripture

Matthew 23-24
 Mark 12:38–13:37
 Luke 20:45-21:38

Memory Verse

You ought to live
 holy and godly lives
 as you look forward
 to the day of God
 and speed its
 coming.
 2 Peter 3:11b-12a
 (NIV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that
 Jesus is coming
 back one day.

Understand that no
 one but God knows
 when Jesus will
 return.

Understand that we
 are to keep watch
 as we wait for Jesus'
 return.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

Have you ever wondered about the future? Maybe you have thought about what might happen next week. Maybe you have even thought about what you might be doing next year. Sometimes it's fun to wonder what you will be doing in ten or twenty years. Who will you marry? What job will you have? Will you have children? Where will you be living? There is really no way of knowing all of that, though. You just have to wait and see.

There are some things about the future that we can know. The Bible tells us things about the future; Jesus even talked about coming events. After Jesus shared the parables of the two sons, the vineyard, and the wedding feast, He talked about how important it is to love God. Loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength is the most important commandment there is.

While Jesus was still in the temple, He spoke to the crowds around Him and He spoke to His disciples. He warned them about the religious leaders. Do you remember the meaning of the parables Jesus told? The parables had been about the religious leaders because they said a lot of good things and appeared good on the outside, but they didn't "practice what they preached." As He was warning the people, Jesus called the religious leaders "whitewashed tombs." He said, you are "like tombs that are painted white. They look beautiful on the outside. But on the inside they are full of the bones of the dead. They are also full of other things that are not pure and clean. It is the same with you. On the outside you seem to be doing what is right. But on the inside you are full of what is wrong. You pretend to be what you are not." (Matthew 23:27-28 NIV)

Then, Jesus left the temple. His disciples left with Him and talked about the beautiful temple buildings as they were leaving. Jesus told them that "not one stone here will be left on top of another. Every stone will be thrown down." (Matthew 24:2 NIV) The disciples wondered about this. They left the city, crossed one of the valleys and went to the Mount of Olives as they did every evening. (Luke 21:37) Peter, Andrew, James, and John came to Jesus in private. "Tell us," they said. "When will this happen? And what will be the sign of your coming? What will be the sign of the end?" (Matthew 24:3 NIV)

Jesus answered, "Keep watch! Be careful that no one fools you. Many will come in my name. They will claim, 'I am the Christ!' They will fool many people. (Matthew 24:4-5 NIV) Then, Jesus told them they would hear of wars and more wars, but He encouraged them not to be afraid. These things have to happen first. Jesus also explained that there would be famines and earthquakes, all of which are still happening now. And then, Jesus explained the end times like a woman who is pregnant and ready to give birth. Have you been around when your mom or your sister was about to have a baby?

Application

Think for a minute about what Jesus said to the religious leaders in the temple. These men knew the Scriptures, but Jesus called them *whitewashed tombs*. On the outside they seemed to be doing what was right, but on the inside they were full of what was wrong. They pretended to be what they were not. (Matthew 23:27-28)

On the other hand, our memory verse encourages us to be something completely different. "You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming." (2 Peter 3:11b-12a NIV)

How are you living? Do you appear to be something that you really are not? Or are you living a holy and godly life as you wait for Jesus to return? If your life is not what it should be, that can change today. You can trust God with it. It's as easy as realizing that you are a sinner (Romans 3:23), understanding that you deserve death, but that God offers you life (Romans 6:23), appreciating that Jesus died for you before you realized you needed a Savior (Romans 5:8), and confessing with your mouth that you have made Jesus the Lord of your life and that you believe God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9).

Before they go to the hospital they have some pain first, only it's not time yet. Then, the pains grow stronger and closer together, but it's still not time. When the pain doesn't seem to stop, then it's time for the baby to be born. That is how things will be at the end of time. The wars and famines and earthquakes that already take place today will happen very close together, until they don't seem to stop.

Jesus said that some people will even be arrested for believing in Him, but that what would really happen through it was to give them an opportunity to share their testimony. (Your testimony is the story of how you decided to follow Jesus and what He has been doing in your life since then.)

Many bad things will happen in Jerusalem and in the temple, but after those things something wonderful will happen for those who follow Jesus. Jesus will return! That was a little difficult to understand since Jesus was standing there talking to them, but Jesus had been trying to prepare them for His death at the end of that very week of His life. Jesus explained it this way, "Then they will see THE SON OF MAN [Jesus] COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory. But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:27-28 NIV) When Jesus returns, He will be coming back to take those of us who are His followers to heaven with Him.

Jesus' coming will be like another parable, the parable of the fig tree. Just as when a fig tree buds and you know summer is near, when you hear of all these difficult things, you can know that Jesus' coming is near. And then Jesus told them that no one but God knows when Jesus will return. Jesus said that the angels don't know when it will happen; even He doesn't know when God will send Him back. Then Jesus charged them again to, "Keep watch! Stay awake! You do not know when that time will come. . . .What I say to you, I say to everyone. 'Watch!'" (Mark 13:33, 37 NIV)

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Jesus Continues Talking About Coming Events



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring a baby doll to class and a picture of a pregnant woman.

Have you ever had a friend or family member go away on a trip? What was it like waiting for them to return? You were probably excited all day the day they were expected to arrive!

Did you know that Jesus is coming back one day? That's pretty exciting news, isn't it?

We will talk more about this later, but Jesus returned to heaven forty days after He rose from the dead. People have been waiting for His return ever since.

As Jesus continued teaching in the temple the week before His death, He talked to the people about His return. He compared it to a momma having a baby. The baby grows and grows inside of her. One day, when her belly is very large, she begins having some pains. Even though she is having pains, it isn't time to go to the hospital yet. Then, the pains grow stronger and closer together, it may be time to go to the hospital, but it's still not time for the birth. When the pain doesn't seem to stop, then it's time for the baby to be born.

That is how things will be when Jesus gets ready to return. The wars and famines and earthquakes that happen today will happen very close together. When the earth's pains don't seem to stop, Jesus will come in the clouds and those of us who follow Him will go to be with Him in heaven!

Jesus told us, though, that no one knows when this will happen except God; the angels don't know when Jesus will return. Not even Jesus knows! We know for sure that He will return; we just don't know when. So while we are waiting we should be living a life that pleases God.



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Make clouds from construction paper. Print the memory verse on the cloud. Decorate the outside edge of the cloud with cotton or glitter.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring marshmallows for the snack.
- Reenact the lesson.
- Sing “I’ll Fly Away,” “When We All Get to Heaven,” “I Wish We’d All Been Ready,” or another song about Jesus’ return.
- Find Jerusalem on a map.
- The thought of coming events may cause some to be afraid. Remind your students that God is in control. Reassure them that Jesus said not to be afraid or terrified. Read Philippians 4:6-7.
- Take a closer look at some of the comparisons Jesus used. Read Matthew 24:36-51 (Mark 13:32-37). Talk about the comparisons and apply them to today. Then read 2 Peter 3.
- As you read through this portion of the lesson in Mark 12-13 the charge to “watch” appears eight times. It is important to keep watch, to be alert. Why? Read 1 Peter 5:8.

**You ought to live
holy and godly lives
as you look forward
to the day of God
and speed
its coming.**

2 Peter 3:11-12

Trace the letters.

Jesus

is coming

back!

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?





Word Search

H T G N S N I A P H T R I B A
 P S N O I T S E U Q M E T M M
 R D U O L C A N I G N I M O C
 E A R T H Q U A K E S I L T R
 G W D L S G N A T W R S O D S
 N H O L Y G O D L Y L I F E C
 A H N Y D O M J F H E A V H N
 N C G O R E E M O L S R A S E
 T T C U D S R Q F S M U N A J
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 N E A S R E D A E L I N D H J
 H K L L Y O U R H E A R T W J

JESUS

LEADERS

WHITEWASHED TOMB

WARNING

KEEP WATCH

FIG TREE

PREGNANT WOMAN

BIRTH PAINS

WARS AND FAMINES

EARTHQUAKES

COMING IN A CLOUD

HOLY, GODLY LIFE



Word Search

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| H | T | G | N | S | N | I | A | P | H | T | R | I | B | A |
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JESUS

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WHITEWASHED TOMB

WARNING

KEEP WATCH

FIG TREE

PREGNANT WOMAN

BIRTH PAINS

WARS AND FAMINES

EARTHQUAKES

COMING IN A CLOUD

HOLY, GODLY LIFE



Preschool Word Search

R I F S E A Y T D I N G
B P L E A S E G O D Y E
F S B I R T H P A I N S
F T R V I N E Y A R D N
J E S U S O U L N Y L S
H O W J E S H E A D D O
S T R E N C L O S E R E
D A B M K J O J E S U S
M H C L O U D S R I E S
D E A J M I N D I S E N
L A K I N G G O B E Y J
C O M I N G B A C K I T

JESUS

COMING BACK

CLOUDS

BIRTH PAINS

CLOSER

PLEASE GOD



Preschool Word Search

R I F S E A Y T D I N G
B P L E A S E G O D Y E
F S B I R T H P A I N S
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JESUS

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