

The Second Coming

Matthew 24:27-31

MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 24:27

"For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many sheets of construction paper as the number of children in your class, pencils, pens, or crayons.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Homecoming

Tell your class about a time when you were expecting a special visitor. It may have been an aunt or uncle or someone else that you were particularly close to. Tell them about your preparation, your anticipation and how you felt when the visitation came. How did you feel to be re-united with this special visitor?

Ask your class to share some experiences of the anticipation of a visit. What did they do to prepare? How did they feel when their guest arrived?

Tell your class that you will be learning about a very special visitation today. Explain that the best person we could possibly imagine is coming back to see us, and He could arrive any minute.

LESSON TIME!

Jesus was preparing His disciples for a very difficult time. He was going to be arrested in a few days and die on the cross for our sins. Then in three days He would conquer death and rise from the grave. His disciples didn't fully understand what was happening. They did not realize that Jesus' kingdom was not a physical

kingdom (one we see with our eyes), but that His kingdom was a spiritual kingdom (a kingdom in our hearts through the Holy Spirit).

They thought that Jesus, the promised Messiah might overthrow the Romans and establish His kingdom on earth right away. Jesus was going to share with them that His kingdom was in their hearts and that He would leave for a while, but would return later for His people and establish His kingdom on this earth at that time. There will come a time when Jesus will have a physical kingdom on this earth. We should be watching and waiting for that time, as His disciples did, today. It will happen when Jesus returns. **Jesus is coming again.**

The first time Jesus came to Earth He came as a baby. He grew to be a man and showed us how to live. He died on the cross for our sins so that we could be forgiven from the wrong things we do. He showed His power by rising from the dead and made the way of salvation so that we could go to heaven. He then “ascended” (went back to heaven) to be with the Father in glory again.

The Bible teaches that at the time Jesus returns He will first rapture, or take His church to be with Him. A seven year period will then come when God will pour out His wrath on this sinful world. There will be a time of tribulation so bad that there has never been anything like it. It is after these seven years of great tribulation that Jesus will return to this earth to set up His kingdom. In the following passage, Jesus tells the disciples about His Second Coming when He will come as our conquering King to judge the world. **Jesus is coming again.**

MATTHEW 24:27

"For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

Jesus' Second Coming will be very sudden like a flash of lightening. He will be very visible. People will gather around to see what is happening. Most people will be afraid, but those who have believed in Jesus after the rapture will have no need to be afraid. They will rejoice. Jesus has promised to always be with us and to take care of us, now and in the world to come. **Jesus is coming again.**

Unfortunately, for those who don't know Jesus it will be very sudden, even take them as a thief in the night. That means that it will be by surprise. A thief doesn't send a letter ahead to announce to the owner of the house that he plans to rob it at a certain time. If that were the case, the owner would be ready. Like the surprise it is to find out that you have been robbed, those who don't know Jesus will be caught by surprise when Jesus returns. If we know Jesus, we should be watching for His return and living according to His will so we can be ready when He comes.

MATTHEW 24:28

"For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together."

Just before Jesus' return there will be a time of great war and suffering called the tribulation. A lot of people will be killed. Mankind will be on the verge of destroying themselves and the whole world. Satan and his followers will seem to be winning, but they won't. Jesus will come to judge the world and save those who believe in Him. This verse is talking about the destruction and the loss of life that will come because of the bad things happening during the tribulation. Isn't it great that we don't need to worry about these things because we know Jesus! We need to be praying for those who do not know Jesus to receive Him so they do not have to go through the tribulation but will be ready for Jesus. **Jesus is coming again.**

MATTHEW 24:29

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken."

This will be a catastrophic event when the sun is darkened and the moon, which reflects the sun's light, will fade out. Without the light of the sun, the earth will be pitch black. It seems that God will make it dark to match people's hearts that are very dark and sinful apart from Jesus. There will also be amazing things happening in the sky as stars fall and the very powers of heaven are shaken.

Who Turned Out the Lights?

Have all of the children sit in your class with enough room between them so they can't disturb each other. Turn off the lights and explain what it might feel like to live in a world of total darkness. It might be very cold, it would be very hard to see, plants wouldn't be able to grow, it might even be very dangerous, etc.

Turn the lights back on and ask the children how it felt to be in the dark. Ask them how they think it might feel to live in a world without light. What kinds of things do we take for granted because we have so much access to light?

During this future time, the whole world will be in total darkness. There will be falling stars like we have never seen before. The heavens will be shaken and changed.

MATTHEW 24:30

"Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

The Bible tells us that Jesus is going to appear in the clouds with great power and glory with an army of angels to judge the world and bind Satan from his evil influence. Everyone will know that there is no one as powerful as Jesus is. **Jesus is coming again.**

The people of the Earth who have rejected Jesus will be afraid and mourn the wrong things they have done. They won't be able to share in Jesus' glory. They will have to share in the punishment of Satan and his evil angels or demons. Could you imagine having rejected Jesus all of your life and then seeing Him come in the clouds in all of His glory. That is one place I wouldn't want to be. I want to be with Jesus.

Those who have accepted Jesus into their hearts and are living for Him won't have to fear. In fact, it will be a very happy and exciting time for them. Jesus is all-powerful. We will share in His power, His glory and His love. **Jesus is coming again.**

MATTHEW 24:31

"And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Have you ever gone on a long trip? You have to pack your bags and get ready. There are many preparations that you need to make before you go. Get ready, Jesus is sending His angels with a loud trumpet call to gather all of His children and take them to heaven to live with Him forever. Heaven will be a place of life, beauty and extreme happiness. We'll never hurt again. We will be surrounded by wonderful love.

Heaven and Earth

On a sheet of construction paper, have your children write the heading "Heaven and Earth" across the top of the paper. Have your

students draw pictures of things representing heaven under the word “Heaven” and pictures representing earth under the word “Earth.”

Explain to your class that heaven will be better than we can possibly imagine. There will be no more sorrow or tears.

Jesus is all-powerful. He made the sun, moon and the stars. He is over all, yet He loves us and is concerned about every part of our lives, even the smallest things. He has promised to be with us always. We can depend on Him to take care of us now and forever. **Jesus is coming again.**

So get ready to go! We don't want to miss this. But all you can take with you is Jesus in your heart. So the best way to get ready is to make sure that Jesus is in your heart!

PRAYER

Invite your children to pray with you a prayer of salvation:

If you have never asked Jesus to come into your heart and be your Savior, you can do so by praying this prayer and believing in your heart:

“Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I have done things that are wrong in your eyes. Please come into my heart and life. Forgive my sins, and help me become the person you want me to be. Thank you for accepting me into your family.”

If you prayed this prayer, you need to tell someone like your teacher, your parents, or another Christian adult. They will help you understand more about Jesus and His wonderful love for you.