



CORRESPONDING LEVEL WEB #s

Defenders: 041202



Detectives: 031202



Developers: 021202



GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE



MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible; Teacher Preparation Guide

(*optional supplements:* K4T songbook and PowerPoint files of lyrics; paper and colored pencils or crayons for "if-time" activity)



SUGGESTED ORIGINAL KIDS 4 TRUTH SONG

"Come, Lord Jesus"

SUGGESTED HYMNS

"Jesus Shall Reign," "Immanuel's Land"

OTHER SONG SUGGESTIONS

Older kids: "Face to Face," "I Shall Know Him," "Coming Again"

Younger kids: "When We All Get to Heaven," "Christ Is Coming," "He's Coming Again!"



THE BASICS

PRIMARY TRUTH

Jesus Christ is coming again!

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Acts 17:31

WHAT THIS DOCTRINE REVEALS ABOUT GOD

God's Word promises that Jesus is coming back to Earth. He will not be coming to suffer and serve as He did before. Instead, when He comes again, He will be coming to reign and rule for all eternity. This is the sure hope of every Christian, and it is what every enemy of Jesus would dread (if they understood or believed it). Nothing can stop Jesus Christ from coming back in all His full glory, and nobody will. As God, Jesus Christ alone is worthy and able to reign and rule. When He comes, He will set wrong to right, punish evil, and make His people ready to spend eternity glorifying and enjoying Him.

KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES – By God's grace...

- The child will learn about Jesus Christ's "Second Coming."
- The child will begin to learn key terms that help us understand the study of end times.
- The child will learn about the "Rapture."

ATTITUDE OBJECTIVES – By God's grace...

- The child will have a holy reverence for God's design and glory in what will happen in the future.
- An unsaved child will think seriously about his/her own readiness to meet the Lord in person, whenever it may be.
- The saved child will await Jesus Christ's return with faith and faithful service.



PRAYER



[Teacher, the note below is **important** for you to read and understand.]

Teaching on the “last things” can be intimidating! If you do feel intimidated – good! You should. Please carefully consider *what* you teach in this section and *how* you teach it.

Please keep the main thing the main thing: **Jesus is coming back!**

Many believers disagree on some of the details of His arrival (e.g., time of tribulation, time/nature of the millennium, etc.). This is an area where we should study ardently and debate our own view rigorously, but where we should also show great charity and graciousness to those who hold different views, because the Bible is not black-and-white clear about these issues, and our own interpretations may not be as accurate as we think!

Please consider the following excerpt from theologian **Wayne Grudem**:

No matter what their differences on the details, all Christians who take the Bible as their final authority agree that the final and ultimate result of Christ’s return will be the judgment of unbelievers and the final reward of believers, and that believers will live with Christ in a new heaven and a new earth for all eternity. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will reign and will be worshiped in a never-ending kingdom with no more sin or sorrow or suffering.

Nevertheless, Christians differ over specific details leading up to and immediately following Christ’s return. Specifically, they differ over the nature of the millennium and the relationship of Christ’s return to the millennium, the sequence of Christ’s return and the great tribulation period that will come to the earth, and the question of the salvation of the Jewish people (and the relationship between Jews who are saved and the church).

[True Christians] who hold to these various positions all agree that Scripture is inerrant, and they have a commitment to believe *whatever* is taught by Scripture. Their differences concern the interpretation of various passages relating to these events, but their differences on these matters should be seen as matters of secondary importance, not as differences over primary doctrinal matters.



TEACHING PHASE – INTRO

(about 5 minutes)

OPENER*

Jesus Christ is coming again!

Have you ever heard the phrases “the Second Coming of Christ” or “the Return of Jesus Christ”?

These phrases are used to describe the promised event of Jesus Christ coming back again to Earth. When He comes again, it will not be so that He can seek and save the lost. Instead, it will be so that He can judge them and fully establish His own kingdom forever.

In this lesson, we will talk about how these ideas come up in the Bible and what they mean.

Read **Acts 17:31**.



COMMENTARY / BIBLE DRILL (#1)

When Jesus does come back, He will come....

- SUDDENLY! **1 Corinthians 15:52**
- PERSONALLY! **1 Thessalonians 4:16**
- VISIBLY! **Revelation 1:7**
- BODILY! **John 3:2**

*NOTE: In the intro, we want to recap the primary truth and set the stage to use the primary truth to point the learners back to God.



INSTRUCTION & REINFORCEMENT

(about 10-20 minutes)

COMMENTARY

When Christians speak about the “Second Coming of Christ,” they are not describing only a single momentary event that happens all at once. It certainly will *begin* in a moment (the Bible says, “in the twinkling of an eye”!), but there are many other events which will take place during this time of Jesus’ second coming. So when we talk about Jesus Christ’s “Second Coming,” or His “Return,” we’re talking about a **whole series of events** that will start up at the moment He first comes back. Some of those events include the “Rapture,” the “Tribulation,” the “Battle of Armageddon,” the “Marriage Supper of the Lamb,” the “Millennial (1,000-years-long) Reign,” and the “Final Judgment.”

Wow! That’s a long list of things to learn about! But don’t worry; we can tackle them one at a time. Let’s start now by learning about one of those events – the *Rapture*.

BIG CHRISTIAN WORD

Rapture (RAP-shur) – The Greek word translated into English as “rapture” also carries the ideas of being taken up or snatched away. So “rapture” is the word we use to describe the moment that Jesus Christ comes back to Earth and takes all believers up to be with Him. The Bible says that the dead in Christ will be raised first and join Him in their glorified bodies. Then living in Christ will be changed instantly and they will be with Him, too. Nobody but God the Father knows when this will happen, and it will all happen faster than the blink of an eye (see 1 Corinthians 15:52).

It is important to understand that the Rapture is NOT ALL THERE IS to the “Second Coming of Christ”! Instead, the Rapture might be viewed as the beginning of the series of events that happen during the whole period of Christ’s return.



BIBLE DRILL (#2) – Look up the following verses, and answer each question.

- **Matthew 24:44** > When is Jesus coming again?
- **John 14:3** > What is one thing He’ll do with believers at His return?
- **Acts 1:11** > How will Jesus come back?
- **1 Thessalonians 4:16** > What are some specific details of Christ’s return?
- **2 Peter 3:10** > To what can we compare Christ’s return?



DISCUSSION

Are there things in your life that you would want to change before Christ returns? If so, what? Why doesn’t God let anyone know exactly when He will return?



(Now might be a good time to draw from the curriculum a few Q&A on the topics of *the nature of Christ’s return, whether believers will ever have to be out of His presence again, and where Christ is located now until His coming again.*)



(Here would be a great place to insert what you learned from your Teacher Truth Study.)



GETTING BACK TO GOD*

{Recap **WHAT THIS DOCTRINE REVEALS ABOUT GOD:** God’s Word promises that Jesus is coming back to Earth. He will not be coming to suffer and serve as He did before. Instead, when He comes again, He will be coming to reign and rule for all eternity. This is the sure hope of every Christian, and it is what every enemy of Jesus would dread (if they understood or believed it). Nothing can stop Jesus Christ from coming back in all His full glory, and nobody will. As God, Jesus Christ alone is worthy and able to reign and rule. When He comes, He will set wrong to right, punish evil, and make His people ready to spend eternity glorifying and enjoying Him.}

Jesus’ return is not about signs and wonders or about keeping track of times and prophecies. Jesus’ return is really **all about Him**. No matter what you believe or how well you understand the parts of Scripture that do describe His coming, you can be totally confident of this main truth: He IS indeed coming again! That’s what’s important to hold onto, because He is what is most important to hold onto. If you have been saved by Jesus Christ, are you growing closer to Him, learning more about Him, obeying Him out of love? Are you hoping for His return, or does it scare you? It is not for us to know when or how Jesus will come; it is for us to try to know Him, more and more, so that when He comes, He will find us serving Him and ready to meet Him – finally, in person!

*NOTE: Teachers, please remember that this section should include the fruit of your Teacher Truth Study and one or two personal illustrations or anecdotes from the “Personalize It!” activity in the Teacher Preparation Phase.



APPLICATION & ASSESSMENT

“INTERNALIZE IT!” from Teacher Preparation Phase
(about 5-10 minutes)

You might begin this section with:

“Boys and girls, as I’ve been preparing for this TruthTime Lesson, here’s what God has been showing me....”

You might continue by saying:

“Because of what God is teaching me, here’s what is going to be different in my life during this next week....”

You might conclude with something like this:

“Finally, here’s what God has taught me about Himself through these truths....”



DISCUSSION TIME QUESTIONS

- Why might it be that some Christians do not want Jesus to come back very soon?
- What have you learned about Jesus’ return that you might share with a friend who does not know about it?



APPENDICES OR “IF TIME”
(optional)



ACTIVITY

Draw a picture of what the Rapture might look like!