

SECTION
3.6

The Lord's Return



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Momentous Events

What You'll Need: Nothing

STEP 1: Ask kids to share their favorite family activities they do to celebrate the following events:

- Christmas
- Birthdays

STEP 2: After kids have shared, ask the following questions:

- Why do we look forward to special events like birthdays or holidays?
- How do you feel as the event gets closer?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- We all have things we look forward to, and it's fun to anticipate those events.
- Jesus promised an event for those who have trusted in Him as Savior. This event will mean the end of life as we know it and open up a brand new beginning with a never-ending life.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of the Lord's return for those who have trusted Him.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: I Hope ...

What You'll Need: Nothing

STEP 1: Have kids sit in a circle. Tell kids they will see how fast they can each complete the sentence, "I hope . . ." For example, they might say, "I hope my mom makes spaghetti for dinner tomorrow." or "I hope we win our basketball game on Friday." Point to the first kid and say, "I hope . . ." and then, moving in a clockwise direction, ask the next kid in the circle. Continue until all the kids have completed the sentence.

STEP 2: After kids complete the activity, ask the following questions:

- How does hoping something will happen make you feel?
- How do you feel when you hope for something that takes a long time to happen?
- Why is it hard to hope for something you want?

STEP 3: After kids have answered the questions, share these key concepts:

- After Jesus told His disciples that He would soon die, He gave His disciples hope that He would one day return for them.
- Those who trust in Jesus as their Savior have that same promise: One day Jesus will come back for you and take you to heaven to live with Him forever.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of the Lord's return for those who have trusted Him.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Rapture Details

What You'll Need: Bibles, two easels with whiteboards or pads of paper, markers

STEP 1: Explain that today's lesson will be about when Jesus returns. Announce you will be having a drawing game with some of the words that have to do with the rapture.

STEP 2: Ask for two volunteers, and have them come up to the easels. Divide the room of kids up into two teams, and tell them it is their job to guess what their teammate is drawing. Whichever team guesses it faster wins a point.

STEP 3: Begin the drawing game by giving the two volunteers the first word. Continue through each word, keeping track of which team wins, and congratulating them.

Words the kids will draw:

- Clouds
- Shout
- Trumpet
- Moment

STEP 4: Share following key concepts:

- Jesus promised His disciples that after He went back to heaven He would prepare a place for them and come back to get them and to take them with Him (John 14:1-2).
- Someday, Jesus will come in the clouds with shouts and trumpets. Next those who knew the Lord but have died will rise first. Those who have trusted in Jesus as Savior and are still alive will meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). This event will happen in just a moment (1 Corinthians 15:51-52). Many people refer to this event as the rapture.
- Even though we don't know when this day will come, we can trust that God always keeps His promises (Deuteronomy 7:9).

- Life is not always easy. There will be hard times and days when we are sad or lonely or hurt. But even in the hard times, we can take hope and comfort knowing that Jesus is coming back for us one day, and we will get to live forever with Him (1 Thessalonians 4:17-18).
- Until Jesus comes back for us, we need to go and tell others the good news so others can trust in Him as Savior (Matthew 28:18-20).

STEP 6: Close in prayer, thanking God for the hope we have in Jesus' return.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Hope in Troubled Times

What You'll Need: Bibles, computer, printer, Hope in Troubled Times Handout, scissors

PREP: Ahead of time, print out a copy of the Hope in Troubled Times Handout and cut the case scenarios apart.

STEP 1: Explain that this week's lesson is about Jesus' return, and what it means for us. Choose three volunteers to help you.

STEP 2: Ask the three volunteers to each read one of the case scenarios.

STEP 3: Remind kids that for those of us who have trusted in Jesus as our Savior, we have hope. Ask a volunteer to read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

Share these key concepts:

- Jesus promised His disciples that after He went back to heaven He would prepare a place for them and come back to get them and take them with Him (John 14:1-2).
- Someday, Jesus will come in the clouds with shouts and trumpets. Next those who knew the Lord but have died will rise first. Then those who have trusted in Jesus as Savior and are still alive will meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). This event will happen in just a moment (1 Corinthians 15:51). Many people refer to this event as the rapture.
- Even though we don't know when this day will come, we can trust that God always keeps His promises (Deuteronomy 7:9).

STEP 4: Remind kids that Paul said that looking forward to Jesus' return is a comfort to those around us. Ask: "How can the events of the Lord's return be a comfort to the people in the scenarios?" (They can know that those who trust in Jesus as their Savior will be in heaven when they die; there will be no sickness or suffering in heaven, etc.)

Share these key concepts:

- Even though life will be hard sometimes, and we will face sadness and hurt, we can have hope in knowing that Christ is coming back for us one day.
- When Jesus was ready to return to heaven after He rose from the dead, He told His followers to go and to be His witnesses, and then He was lifted up. Angels came and told them that just as Jesus was taken up from them into heaven, He would come again the same way (Acts 1:8-11).

STEP 5: Remind kids that until Jesus comes back for us, we need to go and tell others the good news so others can trust in Him as Savior (Matthew 28:18-20). Then ask: "Who can you share the good news of Jesus with this week?"

STEP 6: Close in prayer, thanking God for the hope that Jesus will one day come back for those who have trusted in Him as Savior.

Notes:



Hope in Troubled Times Handout

Ava's grandpa has cancer. He has been sick for a very long time. Last night, Ava's mom and dad told her that her grandpa would soon die, but they also said that he would be in no more pain because he had trusted Jesus as his Savior when he was a little boy. He was going to go to heaven when he died. Ava is glad her grandpa accepted Jesus as His Savior, but she is so sad to say goodbye to him.

Ben's uncle was in a car accident and passed away last week. Ben knows his uncle is in heaven because his uncle had trusted Jesus as His Savior. And since Ben trusted Jesus as his Savior, Ben knows he will see his uncle again one day. Still Ben is sad to think that his uncle won't be there to cheer him on as he plays soccer this weekend.

Andrew helps his next door neighbor, Mr. Higgins, every week. He takes out the trash for him and helps clean up his yard. It makes Andrew sad that Mr. Higgins often feels sick and has trouble walking. Andrew doesn't know if Mr. Higgins has accepted Jesus as his Savior, and he wants to tell Mr. Higgins about Jesus, but he is not sure where to start.