



Waiting for Jesus

ADVENT WEEK 5

JESUS WILL RETURN

JOHN 14; 1 THESSALONIANS 4

KEY POINT

Jesus will return.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Will Jesus come back one day? Yes, Jesus will come back one day!

MEMORY VERSE

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His son. Galatians 4:4

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

My family almost left me at an amusement park when I was a boy. A miscommunication about where I should meet my dad led to me wandering around crying. Meanwhile, my dad got all the way to the parking lot before realizing I wasn't with my mom. After my initial panic, a deep hope welled up inside me as I was looking for my family. I remembered the exact spot where my dad and I parted ways. And something told me that my dad would never really leave me, and eventually he would return to that specific spot. So, I made my way back and stood in that spot... and waited. After what felt like days, I felt a familiar bear-paw-sized hand on my shoulder. Instant relief.

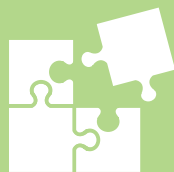
My dad loves me. He knew the way back to where I was. He would really never leave me. He came back. And when he came back, all my fear melted. Everything was alright again.

Read John 14:1-3 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. It was quite the journey to wait for Jesus to come as Messiah the first time. Now, after witnessing all that Jesus said and did, we wait again for Him.

This time, we wait with the certainty that Jesus has kept every promise and is powerful over even sin and death! We wait, remembering that Jesus loves us and has held nothing back to be with us. We wait, knowing that Jesus will return, and when He does, everything will be alright, forever.

— **Matt Irvine**
Pastor and Editor
Contributor to Wonder Ink

WELCOME & OPENING



Connect with children as service starts.

WELCOME

Play the Waiting For Jesus Spotify playlist from your phone as you welcome children in and throughout the service. Scan the QR code on the right with your phone's camera to access it!



MEMORY VERSE SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “When the Saints Go Marching In”:

But when the fullness,
but when the fullness,
but when the fullness of time had come,
God sent forth His son.
Galatians 4:4

THE LORD’S PRAYER/TEN COMMANDMENTS

Toddlers & Twos: Use the provided poster to review the Lord’s Prayer with the children in your class.

Threes & Fours: Using the provided poster, review the Ten Commandments with the children in your class. Read through each one, then have children repeat after you as you say them together.

ACTIVITIES



Lead children in activities connected to the Bible lesson.

ACTIVITY 1: PLAY INSTRUMENTS

Say: *We're learning today about how it will be when Jesus comes back. We'll hear music, and we'll see Jesus coming in the clouds. Let's play music and wave our scarves to remind us of the clouds as we think about Jesus coming back!*

Pass out the provided instruments and scarves. Invite children to play the instruments all together and wave their scarves in the air as you think about Jesus returning.

ACTIVITY 2: STEPPING ON THE CLOUDS

Use the provided white sheets of paper or paper plates to make a simple pattern on the floor (keep them close together). We're going to pretend these plates are clouds, as a reminder of Jesus coming back and meeting us in the clouds.

Let children take turns stepping from one pretend cloud to the next. To make it more challenging, change the formation of the "clouds" with each round.

Say: *Today we learned Jesus is going to come back someday and His followers will get to be with Him in heaven forever!*

BUILDING BLOCKS



Learn more about the background of today's lesson.

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS: THE SECOND ADVENT

WHO?

Since the very beginning, Jesus has been with God; Jesus is God! Jesus was God's answer to redeem the broken world. Jesus came as a human to show us what God is like and to die for our sins. And Jesus the King is coming back to take us to be with Him.

WHAT?

Jesus is preparing a place for us; He will return and take us to be with Him. This is called the second advent (or second appearance). God is with us now through the Holy Spirit, and one day, we will be with Jesus physically.

WHERE?

Heaven is God's dwelling space where He exercises complete authority and is in all and over all. When Jesus returns, God's people will dwell with Him in the renewed creation where all of God's people will enjoy His presence without shadow or fear (Revelation 21:22-26).

WHEN?

The fulfillment of God's plan is the advent of Jesus and the renewal of all things. We don't know the day or the hour, but we do know that Jesus will come down and take all His followers to be with God forever.

BIBLE TIME



Review the Bible lesson with your class.

BABIES & TWOS BIBLE LESSON

Our lesson from the Bible today is about how God showed His love for us by sending Jesus. Encourage children to say, "Jesus." Let's find out from the Bible what happened. Show children the Bible Story Picture as you tell the story.

At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus coming as a baby. *(Pretend to hold and rock a baby and encourage children to do the same.)* Jesus grew up. Before He went back to heaven, He told His friends He was going to prepare a big forever home for all of His followers.

He promised that He will come again one day. He'll come from the clouds, and we'll hear trumpets playing. *(Pass out instruments and make a joyful noise because Jesus will return one day.)*

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Like God's people long ago, we wait for the arrival of Jesus. However, we wait for Jesus' second coming and have the Holy Spirit with us as we wait. Jesus will return, and one day we will see Him face to face!



THREES & FOURS BIBLE LESSON

Our lesson from the Bible today is about how God showed His love for us by sending Jesus. Encourage children to say, "Jesus." Let's find out from the Bible what happened. Show children the Bible Story Picture as you tell the story.

At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus coming as a baby. *(Pretend to hold and rock a baby and encourage children to do the same.)* Jesus grew up, like we're all growing. Before He went back to heaven, He told His friends He was going to prepare a big forever home for all of His followers.

He promised that He will come again one day. He'll come from the clouds, and we'll hear trumpets playing. That's a musical instrument. *(Pass out the provided toy instruments and encourage children to use them to make music. Then, collect the instruments again.)*

We can wait with excitement for Jesus to come back! Show me your excited faces. *(Pause to allow children to show their excited faces.)* Sometimes things in our life can be hard and make us sad. Now show me your sad faces. *(Pause for kids to show their sad faces.)* Sometimes we can be scared of things. Show me your scared face. *(Pause for kids to show their scared faces.)*

But we don't have to be sad or scared because the Holy Spirit is with us while we wait! So, we can be happy and excited while we wait for Jesus. Show me your happy face. *(Pause for kids to show their happy faces.)*

When Jesus comes back, there will be lots of music and singing and praise. Jesus is coming back someday, and His followers will get to go and be with Him forever!

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Like God's people long ago, we wait for the arrival of Jesus. However, we wait for Jesus' second coming and have the Holy Spirit with us as we wait. Jesus will return, and one day we will see Him face to face!

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

SNACK & DISCUSSION

Have everyone wash their hands, then serve a snack. Ask the following questions and retell parts of the lesson as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible lesson?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible lesson?
3. Will Jesus come back one day? Yes, Jesus will come back one day!
4. What will we hear when Jesus comes back?

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Sing the clean up song. Have children help put toys on tables.

Gather them on the rug in a circle and have one volunteer read today's Bible lesson from the children's Bible. Have a regular Bible ready as well.

Sing the "B.I.B.L.E." and "Everything in the Bible is Absolutely True" songs. Remind children that the Bible is God's Word and the most important book in the whole world!

The other volunteer should stand at the door and help with pick up, matching stickers, gathering children's things, etc.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return binders to the cabinet.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!