



11

Jesus Will Return

Key Theme

- God is faithful to His promises.

Key Passages

- Matthew 24:44; John 14:1–3; Acts 1:9–11; Revelation 1:7;
1 Thessalonians 4:16

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain the hope Christians have for the future.
- Explain how Jesus will return.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet and reciting the verse to a friend.



Activity 1: Jesus Will Return Class Notes

Students will circle “true” or “false” on the Jesus Will Return Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God’s Word

Jesus said His followers should be ready because one day He is coming back in glory. He will return just as He left—in the clouds. And all believers will be together with Him throughout all eternity.



Activity 2: Jesus Returns Review

Students will answer review questions from the lesson and toss beanbags into the baskets to earn points for their team.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print one Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheets
- Pencils or crayons



JESUS WILL RETURN CLASS NOTES

- Print one Jesus Will Return Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Jesus Will Return Class Notes for each student
- Jesus Will Return Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one set of Seven C's Pictures from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print the four Lesson Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.

- Seven C's Pictures
- Four Lesson Illustrations
- Tape or poster putty
- Student Take Home Sheets



JESUS RETURNS REVIEW

- Print and cut out the Basket Point Labels from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Attach a point label to each basket or box.
- Print the Jesus Returns Review Questions.

- Basket Point Labels
- Jesus Returns Review Questions
- Two beanbags
- Three laundry baskets or boxes
- Masking tape



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.
- Print onto cardstock and cut out one or two sets (depending on class size) of the Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Keep the flashcards for use in Lessons 7–12.

- Memory Verse Poster
- One set of Memory Verse Flashcards
- Masking tape
- Optional: Timer



Memory Verse

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

The Bible is the history book of the universe—from beginning to end. It started in Genesis with the Creation, when God created all things, and they were all very good (Genesis 1:31). Man fell into Corruption—sin—by disobeying God’s command (Romans 5:12). The world had fallen into wickedness and disobedience, so God sent a Catastrophe—the worldwide Flood as punishment (Genesis 7:23). Only Noah and his family survived that Flood. But as the population of man grew, they again disobeyed God. As a result of man’s sin at the Tower of Babel, God sent Confusion on them. Their languages were confused, and they were scattered all over the earth (Genesis 11:9). Man could never obey God perfectly. That is why God sent His perfect Son, Jesus Christ, to earth (John 3:16). Jesus died on the Cross so that sinners—all who believe in Him—could have eternal life! But that was not all God did! Jesus was buried, and He rose from the grave, and then ascended into heaven! Jesus is alive. He put an end to death and made a way for sinners to be forgiven and welcomed into His family (1 Corinthians 15:3–4).

But there is still more to come! God has told us about the major events that will finally end history and fulfill His plan for the universe—known as the Consummation! This consummation includes the anticipated return of Jesus Christ in glory as the conquering King!

Jesus often spoke to His followers about His return. He told them to be ready for His coming (Matthew 24:44). Jesus said that He was going to prepare a place for His followers and would come again to take them to be with Him (John 14:1–3).

The Bible tells us that as Jesus’s disciples watched Him ascend back to His Father, He was taken up into a cloud. They looked toward heaven as Jesus went up. Two angels appeared to the disciples and assured them that Jesus Christ, whom they had just watched ascend, would one day appear again in the same manner (Acts 1:9–11). The Apostle John confirmed this in the book of Revelation when he wrote that Jesus is coming back in the clouds. And when He returns, every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him (Revelation 1:7). And the Apostle Paul wrote that the Lord will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God! The saints of God will meet the Lord in the air and will then be with Him always (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).

What joyous news this is to those of us, who by

God’s mercy, have been born again to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:3). The realization that our Savior, Jesus Christ, will return for us one day should motivate us to live in eager expectation of His return! And while we are eagerly waiting, we should examine ourselves to be sure we are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). Do our lives reflect faithful obedience and ministry to what Jesus Christ has called us to? Or are we so caught up in the pleasures and enjoyments of this world that we forget that this is NOT our home (Hebrews 13:14)? Are we truly seeking the better, heavenly country that God has prepared for His people (Hebrews 11:16)?

The world and all its pleasures are passing away (1 John 2:17). And because of the joy we have in Christ, we are to put off and deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. We are to live righteous lives today as we look for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11–13)!

The book of Revelation ends with Jesus’s promise, “Surely I am coming quickly.” And as we mature in Christ, our response will align with the Apostle John’s, who replied, “Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The church has been waiting for Jesus to return for her for over 2,000 years. Faithful believers have been comforted through the centuries by the words of Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4, especially those who have undergone persecution for their faith:

I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18).

What a wonderful day that will be! It is a day that we are to look forward to.

Unfortunately, some, in eager anticipation of that day, have tried to predict the date of Christ's return. Whether by applying complicated mathematical formulas to numbers in the book of Daniel, searching the secret "Bible codes," or by supposed direct revelation, hundreds of people and organizations over the years have predicted the date of Christ's return. Here are just a few of them within the recent past:

- William Miller, a Baptist preacher from New York, stated in 1842, "My principles in brief, are, that Jesus Christ will come again to this earth, cleanse, purify, and take possession of the same, with all the saints, sometime between March 21, 1843, and March 21, 1844." When this did not happen, he then recalculated and determined the correct date to be October 22, 1844. This date became known as "The Great Disappointment" by the Millerites (his followers) after Jesus failed to return. Thousands of them had sold their possessions and were awaiting the coming of Christ.
- The Watchtower Society (Jehovah's Witnesses) have predicted that Christ would come in 1914, 1918, 1920, 1925, 1941, 1975, and 1994. When He failed to return each time, they reinterpreted these dates to refer to "spiritual" events in heaven.
- Hal Lindsey, author of the book *The Late, Great Planet Earth*, predicted no less than four times a date for the return of Christ: 1981, 1988, 2007, and 2040.
- Edgar Whisenant wrote a book entitled, *88 Reasons Why the Rapture Is in 1988*. When that prediction failed, he "recalculated" and came out with revised predictions of 1989 and then 1993.
- In addition to Hal Lindsey, other authors wrote of the year 1988 being the rapture of the church based on it being 40 years, or one "generation," after the founding of the modern nation of Israel in 1948.
- Harold Camping, an American Christian radio broadcaster, famously predicted that Jesus would return on May 21, 2011. Followers of Camping donated millions of dollars to purchase radio ads and billboards to warn people of the coming apocalypse. When the day passed without the predicted return, Mr. Camping "recalculated" the date to be October 21, 2011, again a failed prediction.
- In an interview in 2012, World Bible Society President F. Kenton Beshore stated that Christ's return will occur sometime between 2018 and 2028.

As you can see, there have been many attempts to set a timetable for Jesus's coming, and they've all been wrong. To some people, the failed predictions are proof that they don't need to take Jesus's return seriously at all—kind of like the boy who cried wolf. However, failed predictions don't prove Jesus wrong. Actually, they prove Him right. Jesus was very clear when speaking about His return: "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (Matthew 24:36). Later, He said, "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. . . . Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matthew 24:42, 24:44).

Right before His ascension to heaven, Jesus's disciples asked Him a question: "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). How did Jesus reply? "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority" (Acts 1:7). We can be sure that Jesus will return, but He has not revealed to us the time when this will happen. So, when you hear people set dates for Jesus's return, don't believe them. The only way anyone could be right about the exact date of the second coming is if Jesus Himself turned out to be wrong.

Rather than leading to date-setting, the return of Jesus is to lead us to sober, righteous, godly living (Titus 2:11–13; 2 Peter 3:11–12; 1 John 3:2–3). We are to be full of hope as we look forward to the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13). We are not to love the world or the things of the world (1 John 2:15), but rather realize that "our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself" (Philippians 3:20–21).



BEFORE THE THRONE

Glorious Lord and Savior, how I long for your return! Your Word gives us glimpses of it, but what we know is just a shadow of that glorious day. When I look for your coming, I am inspired to live a life that is pleasing to you. I want to be ready! I want to seek first the kingdom of God and hold loosely the things of this world. Use this lesson to challenge my students to worship you alone, live in obedience to your commands, and follow your will for their lives so they will be found ready when you return!



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Jesus Will Return Class Notes

MATERIALS

- Jesus Will Return Class Notes for each student
- Jesus Will Return Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students determine whether each answer is true or false and circle the correct answer.

- The class notes are designed and written simply. Please encourage and help your students to read them as the class progresses. They are an excellent means to review important lesson principles.

We will circle the answers—true or false—on our class notes as we study the Bible verses. Do not work ahead. We'll do them together.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we look at our lesson today, we're going to learn about something very exciting—**Jesus is coming back someday!**



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to Lesson 8 Lesson Theme Poster. All believers get to call themselves children of God! If we believe in Jesus Christ and trust what the Bible tells us about Him, we are adopted into God's family! Jesus is our Brother!

God has promised that all His children—all believers—will one day be in heaven forever!

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we have written these lessons for you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, please encourage your students to bring Bibles to class. And if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.

► Pass out the Seven C's Pictures labeled 1–7. Have small pieces of poster putty or tape available. Students will bring the pictures up and put them in place.

Refer to Lesson 9 Lesson Theme Poster. **As children of God, believers get to talk to God.**

? **How do believers talk to God?** *Through prayer.*

This is a wonderful gift God gives to those who receive Jesus as their Lord! All believers can speak to God—and God hears us and answers us! The Christian life is certainly a special and wonderful life.

? *Refer to Lesson 10 Lesson Theme Poster.* **But is it EASY?** *Allow discussion.*

It is not easy! The Bible says that Christians are to be like Jesus! We can't do that on our own!

? **God has given us help! What is that help?** *Allow discussion. His armor—the armor of God!*

? **And what does that armor include?** *Refer to the Lesson 10 Lesson Theme Poster. Allow discussion. Belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of the gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and sword of the Spirit.*

That's right. We need armor from God to keep us fighting for our faith in Jesus Christ. But there are times when we don't want to fight anymore because we just don't think it is worth it. The things of the world seem so much better to us, and we just don't feel like obeying!

But the truth is, it IS worth it! This world WILL end, and when it does, we know that for all believers, God has made some wonderful promises!

Pass out the Seven C's Pictures to seven students. **But in order to understand this, we have to start at the very beginning! The Bible is the history book of the universe! And it tells us what happened at the very beginning of the universe and what will happen at the very end. Let's review that history very quickly by reviewing what we call the "Seven C's of History."**

? **We will start at the very beginning. Who has Picture #1? Will you read that and place it on the board?** #1. *Creation. God made it all. Have student attach it to the board.*

Right! We read about the Creation in the book of Genesis. In the beginning God created all things.

? **Who has Picture #2? Will you read that and put it on the board?** #2. *Corruption. Sin made man fall. Have student attach it to the board.*

Yes! Adam and Eve ate the fruit God told them not to eat! And after that, ALL people ever born would sin, too!

? **Who has Picture #3? Will you read it and put it on the board?** #3. *Catastrophe. A worldwide Flood. Have student attach it to the board.*

The people of the world became more and more wicked and sinful. God hates sin! So, He sent a worldwide Flood to judge sin. But in His mercy, God saved Noah and his family from the Flood. So what happened next?

? Who has Picture #4? What does it say? #4. Confusion. Man disobeyed. God confused their language.

? Where did this happen? Where did God confuse the language of the people? Allow discussion. The Tower of Babel. Have student attach it to the board.

This confusion from God happened at the Tower of Babel. The people were building a tower to the heavens instead of obeying God. And God put a stop to that! He confused their language. The people scattered all over the earth, and the tower was never finished.

It was clear in history now that man could never obey God perfectly. People kept sinning and disobeying God! And God hates sin! We should all be condemned because of our sin.

? But that is not what God had in mind. Who has Picture #5? Will you read that and put it up on the board? #5. Christ. God sent His Son to earth so sinners could be forgiven. Have student attach it to the board.

Jesus came to earth as a baby and lived a perfect life. Jesus is God! This was God's plan!

? What did Jesus have to do in order to offer forgiveness and salvation to all of us sinners? Allow discussion. He had to die.

? Who has Picture #6? Will you place that on the board and read it? #6. Cross. Jesus died on the Cross for sinners. Have student attach it to the board.

Yes! This was God's plan! Jesus had to die on the Cross AND He rose from the grave. Jesus is alive! This is good news! But the good news doesn't end here!

? Who has Picture #7? This is what we are going to talk about today. Can you read it? #7. Consummation. God's plan for the end of history! Have student attach it to the board.

? Those are the Seven C's of History. Let's say them together. Repeat the history using the pictures on the board. Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, Consummation.

The Seven C's cover ALL of the history of the world. And that history is ALL found in the Bible!



➤ Pass out the four Lesson Illustrations. These are in addition to the Seven C's Pictures students have already put on the board. Students will bring these up as you discuss the lesson.

READ THE WORD

Refer to the Consummation picture on the board. Today we will talk about God's plan for the end of history. The Bible tells us the universe will come to an end. That is what we call the Consummation—the seventh C of history. Before I get started I have four more pictures I want to pass out. We will be putting these up on the board as we continue.

Matthew 24:44

This has to do with Jesus and what He will do at the Consummation. I am going to read Matthew 24:44. This is something Jesus said to His followers. Let's read it. *Read Matthew 24:44.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

This is great news for believers! Let's talk about what we just read.

Observe the Text

- ? Who was speaking in this verse? *Jesus.*
- ? Jesus was speaking. This verse mentions the "Son of Man." This is another name for Jesus. What did Jesus tell His followers? *Be ready.*
- ? Yes. Jesus said to be ready! What should they be ready for? What is Jesus going to do one day? *Come back.*

Jesus said be ready! He is coming back one day!

Now I'm going to read John 14:1–3. Jesus was talking to His disciples. He knew God's plan and that He would be killed on the Cross. Listen to what He told His friends. *Read John 14:1–3 with enthusiasm.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Where did Jesus say He was going? *John 14:2. Allow discussion. He was returning to the Father.*
- ? What was He going to do there? *Re-read John 14:2 if necessary. He would prepare a place for His disciples.*

Jesus was going to His Father to prepare a place for His followers—a place in heaven with God, the Father!

- ? What did Jesus promise to do after He went back to His Father to prepare a place for them? *Re-read John 14:3. He would come back to them and take His followers where He was going!*

Discover the Truth

In these verses we just read, and many more in the Bible, Jesus told His followers that He would be coming back. He told them to be ready! In fact, Jesus promised that He was going to prepare a place in heaven for everyone who receives the truth that Jesus Christ is the Savior—the way, the truth, and the life—the only way that sinners can get to heaven and to be with God after they die.

Refer to picture #7 (Consummation) on the board. That is part of the Consummation! God's plan for the end of history. Jesus is coming back!

John 14:1–3

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

Take a look at the class notes now. These are true and false sentences. We'll read each one and see if it is true or false.

- ? Who will read #1 on the class notes for us? *Assign a reader. True. Have students complete #1 on the class notes.*
- ? And how about #2? Someone read that one for us. *Assign a reader. True. Have students complete #2 on the class notes.*



READ THE WORD

This is an exciting and wonderful promise to all believers. But how will Jesus return? What does the Bible say about it? We will be putting the four pictures I just handed out on the board now, so pay attention!

Listen as I read Acts 1:9–11. This is what happened as Jesus left the earth. And it tells about what will happen when He returns. *Read Acts 1:9–11.*

Acts 1:9–11

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Can you imagine it? What did the disciples see? *Acts 1:9. Jesus went up in the air and into a cloud.*
- ? Who has picture #1? Bring that up and put it on the board. Can you read it? *Jesus went up to heaven in the clouds. Have student put picture #1 on the board.*
- ? Jesus's disciples saw Him go up into the clouds! As they watched, they saw something else. What was that? *Re-read Acts 1:10. They saw two men in white apparel.*
- ? Who do you think these two men were? *Acts 1:10. Allow discussion. Angels.*
These were two angels sent from God. These angels told the disciples that Jesus would come back the same way He left.
- ? Who has picture #2? Can you show that to us and read it? *Jesus will come back in the same way. Have student put picture #2 on the board.*

► As you ask the questions below, re-read the appropriate verses.

The Bible says that Jesus went up in the air, a cloud appeared, and He disappeared from their sight! And God sent angels to tell the disciples that Jesus would one day return to earth in the clouds, just like He left!

Now I am going to read from the very last book in the Bible. It is Revelation 1:7. This is also about Jesus's return to earth one day! Listen carefully! *Read Revelation 1:7 emphasizing "He is coming with clouds."*

Revelation 1:7

- ? How will Jesus be coming? *He will come with clouds.*
- ? Who has picture #3? Will you read it and put it on the board? *Jesus will come back with the clouds. Have student place picture #3 on the board.*

Yes! Again, we read that Jesus WILL one day return, and when He does, He will return in the clouds.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

This will be a wonderful day for everyone who believes in Jesus Christ! Now I want to read some verses that give us a look at what that glorious day will be like. I am going to read 1 Thessalonians 4:16. *Read the verse with enthusiasm!*

- ? Who will come down—or descend—from heaven? *The Lord Himself.*
- ? There will be a loud voice. Whose voice will that be? *The voice of an archangel!*
- ? And what else will be heard when Jesus returns? *Re-read 1 Thessalonians 4:16 if necessary. The trumpet of God!*
- ? What? Who has picture #4? What does it say? Will you bring it up and put it on the board? *The trumpet of God will be heard. Have student attach picture #4 to the board.*

Discover the Truth

- ? OK. Let's go back to our class notes! Will someone read #3? Is that true or false? *Assign a reader. True. Have students complete #3 on the class notes.*
- ? And what about #4? Is that true or false? *Assign a reader. False. Have students complete #4 on the class notes.*
- ? What is the right answer to #4? What does the Bible say? *Allow discussion. Jesus will come back.*
- ? OK. So how about #5 then? Who will read that? *Assign a reader. True. Have students complete #5 on the class notes.*
- ? What about #6? Does that look right to you? *Assign a reader. False. Have students complete #6 on the class notes.*
- ? No. The angels did not say a guitar would be heard. What will be heard when Jesus returns? *The trumpet of God.*
- ? And now for #7. Is that true or false? Someone read #7. *Assign a reader. True. Have students complete #7 on the class notes.*

Wow! This is going to be something great! It might be hard for us to imagine what this will be like, but it's a promise in God's Word, and we can trust that it will happen. Jesus will return one day. There will be a loud shout and a loud voice, and the trumpet of God will play.

And ALL believers—everyone who has believed in Jesus and turned from his sins to Jesus for forgiveness—will meet Him and be with Him forever!



➤ If time allows, do a quick review of each point on the class notes.



Jesus Returns Review

MATERIALS

- Basket Point Labels
- Jesus Returns Review Questions
- Two beanbags
- Three laundry baskets or boxes
- Masking tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25—place the higher points farther away. Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team questions from the lesson. Allow students to use class notes, posters, etc. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss the beanbags into the baskets then go to the end of the line. If beanbags miss, there are no points scored. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if time allows. If someone does not answer correctly, he should go to the end of the line to try again. Ask the same question to the other team.

Let's get into teams. I'm going to tape down a tossing line here and line up these baskets. Each basket is worth different points—5, 10, and 25. Each team member will get a turn to answer a question from the lesson. If you answer it correctly, you will get to toss beanbags into the baskets to earn points for your team. We will keep track of your points on the board. If you don't answer correctly, the next team will get a turn to answer the question. Let's play!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

What exciting promises we've read about today! Those who believe in Jesus as their Savior can look forward to being with Him forever. Jesus is coming back again. He has gone to heaven to prepare a place for all Christians. And when it's time, He will come back and take all believers home to heaven.





Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class by playing this game.

MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Poster
- One set of Memory Verse Flashcards
- Masking tape
- Optional: Timer

INSTRUCTIONS

Allow students to look at the Memory Verse Poster and say the verse together as a class a couple of times. Remove or cover the poster before the game begins. Tape the Memory Verse Flashcards onto students' backs. Students will work together to put themselves in order according to the memory verse. If you have a large class, make two sets of flashcards and have teams race to put themselves in order. Once they think they are standing in order, check the verse by reading the words out loud according to how they are standing. If you have fewer students, tape more than one flashcard, in the proper order, on some students.

We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say the verse together a couple times. *Cover the poster before starting the game.*

Tape the flashcards onto the students' backs. Now I am going to tape these Memory Verse Flashcards onto your backs! Once I have done that, I want you to work together to get into the right order. We'll check the verse when you are finished. Most groups may need a time limit to encourage them to move at a quick pace. If so, let them know the limit and use a timer to count down the time. Once the students think they are in the right order, check them by reading the words out loud.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Those who know Jesus Christ as their Savior—all who have turned from sin and believe what the Bible says about Him—can rejoice all the time, pray to God every day, and give thanks for everything because God is faithful, and Jesus will one day return to take all believers to heaven!





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Refer to Lesson 11 Lesson Theme Poster. Jesus promised that He would come again to take all believers to a place He has prepared. When Jesus left this earth He went up into the clouds. God sent angels to give the message that one day Jesus would return to earth in the same way they saw Him leave—in the clouds.

This is something worth celebrating and remembering—that one day Jesus will come back in glory! And all believers will be with Him, and they will be together with God forever and ever throughout all eternity.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

If we are Christians and have received Jesus and believe all the Bible says about Him, we need to be ready for His return!

We will be ready if we are living our lives for His glory! One way to be ready is to read God's Word, listen to it, learn from it, and understand it.

Another way to get ready is to pray without ceasing. Prayer is talking to God! God wants His children to pray about everything. Prayer will help us stay close to God and be ready for Jesus's return!

Loving others and telling people about Jesus is another way to be ready. Share the gospel with others so they may receive Christ and believe in Him!

Jesus is preparing a home for believers in heaven. And some day He will come back and take His children to live with Him forever! Until then, these are things all believers can do to be ready for His return.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Pray that God will help us remember to get ready for His return.
- Praise God because Jesus promises to come back for believers.
- Ask God to help us understand His Word, pray, and tell others the gospel message.

