



BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 52

JESUS IS COMING BACK

Scripture: Matthew 24:36–51

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Printed pictures from end of lesson, magnets,

Ask:

- Who can tell me what we learned about last week? (Paul and Silas in prison)
- We are on our last lesson of the Bible in a year! Can you believe that? What was your favorite story? What other ones do you remember? (Allow for a time of sharing to cement the ideas and stories into the children's minds.)
- Today, we're going to talk about the end of the world. Dun dun dun!
- That can sound scary, but it really isn't for those of us who believe in Jesus. It's really the beginning of a world with Jesus as King, which is pretty incredible!

Summarize

When Jesus talks about the end, he often talks in parables. He does this to help his followers understand what his coming will be like. First things first, Jesus is coming back. We may die before it happens, or he may come while we're still alive, but one day, Jesus will return to earth as King. He describes his coming a few ways in the Bible: Like a thief in the night, like a master who went away for a while, like a bridegroom coming for his bride. He regularly tells his followers to be prepared because he is coming soon. This means he wants us to know and follow him with all our hearts, that is why he came, and that is why he is patiently waiting to return-- allowing more people to come to know him.

Read: Matthew 24:36–51

Explain:

This is the most important question you'll ever answer. It's the question of if you're ready for Jesus' return. For those who know Jesus, we can rejoice at his return, because it means the beginning of our eternal life with him. But here is the other side. Those who don't know Jesus and follow him as their Lord will be separated from him in a second death.

This is heartbreaking. Jesus doesn't long for any to perish apart from him, but he gives us a choice. Think way back to Adam and Eve in the garden. God gave them a choice. He told them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but they did. Because they did, sin entered the world. That sin infects us. We all sin. But God made us a way through the death and resurrection of Jesus. But the choice is ours. I can't make it for you. Your parents can't make it for you.

When Jesus talked to his followers about this choice, he told them to count the cost. You wouldn't try to build a building before you knew the cost of all the materials. You should look at the cost of following Jesus. It's death to your own desires and way of life, and turning to his. This can sound hard and scary until we remember that his way is so much better than ours.

Visual:

Have sheep and goats laying on a table. Glue or tape a magnet or magnetic strip inside the sheep. Run a magnet over the sheep and the goats, causing the sheep to fly up while the goats remain.

We have a choice. Those who count the cost and choose to follow Jesus as their Lord, walking in his forgiveness and grace, and living by the power of his Holy Spirit to help them live in obedience, will be brought to new life. Those who do not, will be separated in Hell. I don't mean to scare you with this. Jesus actually talked more about Hell than he did about heaven. He did this to warn his people that he loved so much because he didn't want any to perish. But, the choice is yours.

If, in your heart, you have counted the cost and want to declare Jesus as your Lord, you can do that right now. You can ask his forgiveness for your sins. You can commit to living for him and learning from him all the days of your life. You can rest in the peace of knowing Jesus and knowing you'll be with him forever, his precious child. And if you did make the decision, please come talk to me, a parent, a pastor, or another Christian. We aren't meant to do this alone. We are meant to be discipled- that means taught how we're supposed to live. So talk to someone, and begin your beautiful journey with Jesus.

Game:

If you have extra time and think the kids could benefit from a game, play a game of "commander tag." One person is "it," this is one who knows Jesus. They must tag someone. Now both are "it" and they must tag other people. Continue on until all have been tagged. This is a visual of the Great Commission. Jesus doesn't long for people to be separated from him, and we don't either. Our job on earth is to love and serve him, and tell of the good news to others. When we do, look how it can spread!

Comic Book Bibles:

Give the kids their comic book Bibles that they have created over the year. Let them look back on the stories and remember them all, then have them color a picture of Jesus' return.

Memorize: Revelation 21:3-4

Close in Prayer





