

A Promise Kept



References

John 14:1-3;
1 Thessalonians
4:13-18; Revelation 1:7; *The
Desire of Ages*, p. 739; *The Great
Controversy*, pp. 640-652;
Early Writings, pp. 13-20



Memory Verse

"Look, he is coming with
the clouds,' and 'every
eye will see him'"
(Revelation 1:7, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that Jesus will
come again and
take us to live with
Him in heaven.

Feel eager for
Jesus to come.

Respond by accepting
His love and praying for Him to
come soon.



The Message

Jesus loves us so
much that He wants us
to live with Him forever.

Monthly Theme

We will spend eternity with Jesus.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus is in heaven where He is preparing a place for us. When He comes again, He will come with clouds of angels and everyone will see Him. Loved ones will come forth from the graves and join with those who are still living to rise up to meet Him in the clouds. We will live with Him throughout eternity.

This is a lesson about grace.

Because of God's wonderful gift of grace that offers us salvation, because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can look forward to the day when Jesus will come again and we will live with Him forever. Our acceptance of His love assures us of His love throughout eternity.

Teacher Enrichment

"Christ is coming with power . . . with His own glory and with the glory of the Father. He is coming with all the holy angels with Him. While all the world is plunged in darkness, there will be light in every dwelling of the saints. They will catch the first light of His second appearing. The unsullied light will shine from His splendor, and Christ the Redeemer will be admired by all who have served Him. While the wicked flee from His presence, Christ's followers will rejoice . . . To His faithful followers Christ has been a daily companion and familiar friend. They have lived in close contact, in constant communion with God. . . .

"With uplifted heads, with the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness shining upon them, with rejoicing that their redemption draweth nigh, they go forth to meet the Bridegroom, saying, 'Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us.' Isa. 25:9" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 420, 421).

Room Decorations

Use felts or pictures to create scenes from heaven. Borrow soft toys to make an animal corner. Have both fierce animals with lambs and shy animals. Write Isaiah 11:6, 7 above the animals. If possible, bring a tree in a tub into the room or have a large paper tree that you can put on the wall. Create the River of Life by rolling out blue crepe paper, blue fabric, or silver foil.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Activities	up to 10	A. Party Invitation B. Going on a Journey C. Jump for Joy	invitations, letter for parents small suitcase or travel bag, things you would take to a warm place and a cold place adhesive bandages, canes, crutches, items to deal with injuries/handicaps
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> decorated jewel box none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	angel costumes, plastic/cardboard toy trumpets, 4 cue cards, the number 1,000,000 written on cue card cue card with memory verse Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Being Prepared</i>	none
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>Spreading the News</i> B. <i>Tell the World</i>	plans to visit senior citizens paper or poster board, markers

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share an experience from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- for each child, personal invitation to a party
- letter for parents

A. Party Invitation

Plan a time for a Sabbath School class party or potluck. Give each child a personal invitation. Ask: **What is in your envelope?** Build up the children's anticipation by telling them about what you have planned. Send a letter home to their parents.

Debriefing

Ask: **How does it feel to be invited to something special? Are you looking forward to coming to the party? I hope so. Something is going to happen soon that we all can look forward to: Jesus is coming back to earth to take us to heaven with Him. Are you looking forward to going with Jesus when He comes? That reminds me of today's message:**



JESUS LOVES US SO MUCH THAT HE WANTS US TO LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- small suitcase or travel bag
- things needed for a trip to a warm place and a cold place

B. Going on a Journey

Say: **Let's pretend we are taking a trip. Where would you like to go? Decide on either a warm or cold climate. I have my suitcase here, and I want you to help me pack.** Let the children come one by one to choose an item to put in the suitcase or reject it.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why did you not take this?** Hold up an item that someone rejected. **How do you feel when you know that you are going on a trip? What do you do to get ready? Today we are going to hear about the best trip that we can ever make. The good news is that all are invited. We will not need a suitcase for that journey. Today's message is:**



JESUS LOVES US SO MUCH THAT HE WANTS US TO LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER.

Say that with me.

C. Jump for Joy

Give each child a bandage, cane, or crutch. Ask: **What do we use this for?** Have the children move around the room using the item they received. (Or ask the children

to move around the room pretending they have injured a foot, hand, arm, or eye.)
When Jesus comes, will we need any of these things? Have them rip off the bandages and put away their crutches and canes (or stand up straight); shout Hallelujah! and jump for joy.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel when you could remove your bandages and walk normally again? What do you think about never being sick or getting hurt again? Jesus has promised that He is going to come and take us to heaven. When this happens, no one will be sick or need to use a walking stick. Today's message tells us that:**



JESUS LOVES US SO MUCH THAT HE WANTS US TO LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- adhesive bandages, canes, crutches, etc.

Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "Jesus Is Coming Again" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 92)
- "Soon and Very Soon" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 89)
- "When He Cometh" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 93)
- "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 90)
- "Do, Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 91)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize grace in the story.



Offering

Say: **This month we are learning about grace. Grace is God's gift of salvation to us because He loves us. We can't do anything to earn it. Our offering today will help other people learn about God's grace.**

You Need:

- decorated jewel box



Prayer

Ask the children to make a list of God's gifts we all enjoy. When they finish, thank God for His grace and all the gifts He gives us.

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- angel costumes (ideally, one for each child)
- plastic/card-board toy trumpets
- 4 cue cards
- the number 1,000,000 written on a cue card

Experiencing the Story

Divide the children into four groups. Explain that at various points in the story you will point to the different cue cards and the children should either repeat what is on the cue card or do the action. Write the following on cue cards so all can see:

Group 1: “‘Look, He is coming in the clouds,’ and ‘every eye will see Him!’”

Group 2: “Alleluia!”

Group 3: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!”

Group 4: Play their “trumpets.”

Rehearse a few times before you begin the story.

Read or tell the story.

Have you ever been to a parade? There’s lots of excitement at a parade. But even the best parade on earth can’t compare with Jesus’ return to earth. When Jesus comes back, it will be the most exciting thing ever to happen since the world began. Picture this in your mind:

Jesus will ride on a cloud so big that everyone in the whole world can see Him. **[Group 1]** Above the cloud is the most brilliant, colorful rainbow anyone has ever seen. Below it, the cloud blazes with fire. Jesus is surrounded by more angels than we could count—maybe more than one million. **[Group 2]** Do you know how many one million is? It’s written like this: 1,000,000. *[Show cue card with the number 1,000,000.]* That’s a big number, isn’t it? There will be a lot more angels with Jesus than 1,000,000! **[Group 3]**

Jesus is wearing a bright, white robe with a sign that says “King of kings, and Lord of lords.” **[Group 2]** When He died

on the cross, Jesus was wearing a crown made of thorns. Now He is wearing a big, glittering crown of gold. But that crown isn’t as bright as His face. His face is brighter than the sun in the middle of the day. You are so happy to see Him that your face lights up too.

Every ear hears Jesus. When He shouts, “I’m coming!” it sounds like the loudest voice you’ll ever hear. It’ll make you want to listen. **[Group 1]** A blast of the trumpet follows. **[Group 4]** Then you hear the sound of the million or more angels praising God. **[Group 3]**

As the cloud moves closer, the whole earth shakes. Lightning flashes, thunder rolls. **[Group 1]** Jesus says to the dead, “Wake up! Get up!” And all the good people who have died live again and shout praises to Jesus. **[Group 3]** Adam gets up. Rahab gets up. Daniel gets up. Peter gets up. Mary Magdalene gets up. Everyone is perfect as they rise from the dead, because Jesus changes them in a flash. Angels come to meet them, and those who are still alive also. Then they take us up to the cloud to meet Jesus. **[Group 2]**

The angels sing “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!” **[Group 3]** And all the people riding in the cloud shout “Alleluia!” **[Group 2]** as the chariot-cloud moves upward toward the New Jerusalem, the city of God. And all those who have loved and served Jesus will live with Him forever and ever!

Debriefing

Ask: **When Jesus comes, how many people will be able to see Him? What will He have on His head?**

Will Jesus be by Himself? What will the angels do? What happens to God’s people who have died? What happens to those who are alive and believe in Jesus?

Say: **Jesus wants all of us to go home with Him to heaven. There is room for everyone. It is just up to us to accept His invitation and to live as He lived. Let's say today's message together:**



JESUS LOVES US SO MUCH THAT HE WANTS US TO LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER.

Memory Verse

Teach the children the following actions as you look at the cue card and say the memory verse.

You Need:

- cue card with the memory verse on it

"Look,

Shade eyes with hand as if looking into the distance.
Point to heaven.

he is coming with the clouds,' and 'every eye will see him.'"

Point to both eyes.

Revelation 1:7

Repeat the verse a number of times until the children know it.

Bible Study

Form pairs. Pair readers and nonreaders or have an adult help nonreaders.

Say: **Let's discover some of the things that the Bible says about Jesus when He comes back to earth. I will read the question and the text. The pair that finds the text first should**

You Need:

- Bibles

stand up and read it.

1. How do we know that Jesus is coming back? John 14:3
2. What did Jesus tell the disciples He would do for them in heaven? John 14:2
3. Is that promise for us too? (Yes.)
4. Who are we going to be with in heaven? John 14:3
5. What does the Bible mean when it talks about people being asleep? 1 Thessalonians 4:13
6. When Jesus comes, what will happen to those who love Him and are sleeping in their graves? 1 Thessalonians 4:14
7. Which group of people will be taken up first, the dead or the living? 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (The dead in Christ shall rise first.)
8. How many people will see Jesus when He comes back? Revelation 1:7 (Every eye will see Him.)

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you feel when you think about Jesus in heaven preparing a special place for you? How many people do you think Jesus wants to take to heaven? Why will there be some people who will not go to heaven with Jesus?**

Say: **Jesus invites everyone to come home to heaven with Him. He shows His love and grace by offering us a place in heaven, even though we have not done anything to deserve it. Let's say today's message together:**



JESUS LOVES US SO MUCH THAT HE WANTS US TO LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER.

Applying the Lesson

Being Prepared

Read or tell this story.

Rita invites her friends to come to her house for a lunch in two weeks. Meanwhile, Rita busies herself getting ready for the lunch. She makes sure the house is clean, there is enough food, and that everything is just right. When the day comes for her friends to visit, none of them come. They have forgotten all about the lunch.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
How do you think Rita feels? How

would you feel if you were Rita? Do you think her friends really like Rita?

How is this situation like Jesus' coming? What can we do to be ready when He comes? Encourage discussion that includes Bible study, prayer, being like Jesus, daily worship, giving one's life to Jesus, etc.

Say: **Let's ask Jesus to help us to be ready.** Say a prayer asking Jesus to help all to be ready to meet Him. Before beginning the prayer, ask those who want to be ready when Jesus comes to raise their hand. **Let's remember our message for today:**



**JESUS LOVES US SO MUCH
THAT HE WANTS US TO LIVE
WITH HIM FOREVER.**

Sharing the Lesson

A. Spreading the News

In advance, arrange for the primary class to visit a nursing home or similar place to provide a short program for the residents.

Allow response time as you ask:
What are some ways to spread the news about Jesus' second coming?

Say: **One idea is to visit some elderly people and sing to them!**

Discuss plans to visit a nursing home or similar place. **Let's practice a few songs right now.** Use the songs listed in Prayer and Praise or other favorites.

Debriefing

Say: **What do you think about vis-**

iting some older people? How do you think they will feel? Why will we do this?

I'm glad to know that Jesus is coming back soon, aren't you? But Jesus doesn't want us to keep the good news to ourselves. Let's tell as many people as we can so they can be ready too! Encourage each child to participate in the planned program. **Let's say today's message again:**



**JESUS LOVES US SO MUCH
THAT HE WANTS US TO LIVE
WITH HIM FOREVER.**

Will you share that message with others?

You Need:

- plans for your class to visit a nursing home or senior residence

B. Tell the World

Say: **When something special (such as a circus or other major event) is coming to town, people put up posters, advertise in the local newspaper and radio, and distribute leaflets to tell everyone about it. We know that Jesus is coming back soon, and we want to tell the world about it. Let's make a poster or leaflet to tell others that Jesus is coming again.** Distribute art supplies and allow time.

Debriefing

Encourage the children to show what they have made. Arrange to display their work in various places in the church. If some want to take their posters home to share with friends and

relatives, encourage them to do so.

Say: **Let me take a look at your work.** Affirm each child. **You have made some great things. I'm glad to know that Jesus is coming back soon, aren't you? Let's tell as many people as we can so they can be ready too. We want to tell the world that Jesus wants everyone to live with Him forever. Let's remember today's message:**



**JESUS LOVES US SO MUCH
THAT HE WANTS US TO LIVE
WITH HIM FOREVER.**

Closing

Invite the children to stand in a circle. Pray that they will be ready to meet Jesus and help others to be ready.

You Need:

- paper or poster board
- markers

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References

John 14:1-3;
1 Thessalonians
4:13-18;
Revelation 1:7;
The Desire of Ages,
p. 739; *The Great
Controversy*,
pp. 640-652; *Early
Writings*, pp. 13-20

Memory Verse

“‘Look, he is
coming with the
clouds,’ and ‘every
eye will see him’”
(Revelation 1:7,
NIV).

The Message

Jesus loves us
so much that He
wants us to live
with Him forever.

*Have you ever thought about what it
will be like when Jesus comes back to take
us to heaven? Let’s take a peek into the
future. It’s going to happen like this . . .*

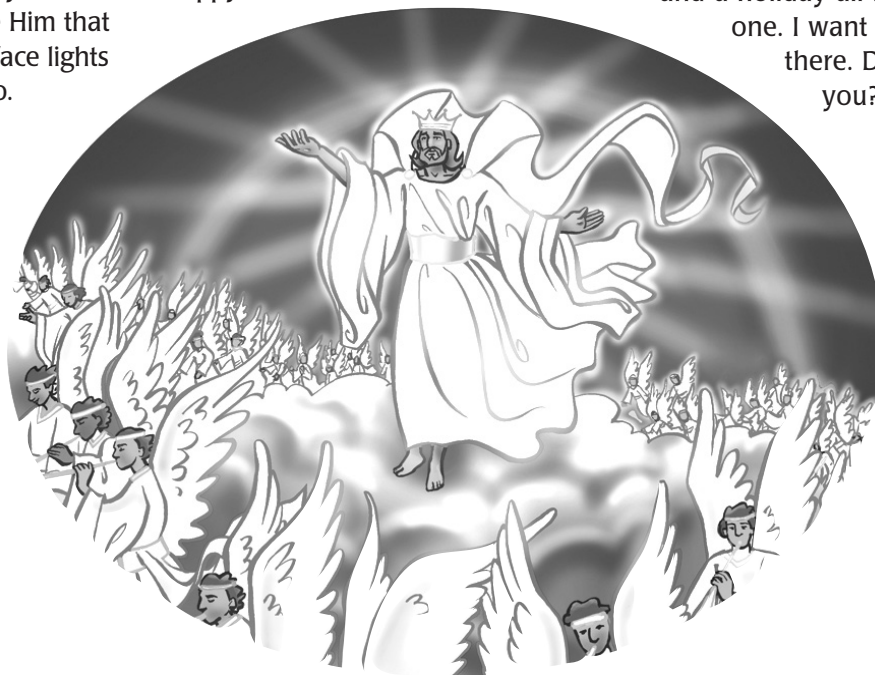
When Jesus comes back, He will ride
on a cloud and everyone will see Him.
Above the cloud will be the most brilliant,
colorful rainbow anyone has ever seen.
Below it the cloud blazes with fire. Jesus
is surrounded by many more angels than
we could count—maybe more than one
million. Do you know how many one
million is? It’s written like this: 1,000,000.
That’s a big number, isn’t it? There are
more angels with Jesus than 1,000,000.
Jesus is wearing a bright, white robe with
a sign that says “King of kings, and Lord
of lords” (Revelation 19:16). When He
died on the cross, Jesus was wearing a
crown made of thorns. Now He is wear-
ing a glittering crown of gold. But that
crown isn’t as bright as His face. His face
is brighter than the sun in the middle of
the day. You are so happy
to see Him that
your face lights
up too.

Every ear hears Jesus. When He
shouts, “I’m coming!” it sounds like the
loudest voice you’ll ever hear. It’ll make
you want to listen. A blast of the trumpet
follows. Then you hear the sound of a
million angels praising God.

As the cloud moves closer, the whole
earth shakes. Lightning flashes, thunder
rolls (Psalm 50:3, 4). Jesus says to the
dead, “Wake up! Get up!” And all God’s
people who have died rise up and shout
praises to Jesus. Adam gets up. Rahab
gets up. Daniel gets up. Peter gets up.
Mary Magdalene gets up. Everyone has
perfect bodies as they rise from the dead,
because Jesus changes them in a flash.
Angels come to meet them and those
who are still alive too. Then they take
everyone up to the cloud.

The angels sing “Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty!” And all the people
riding in the cloud shout “Alleluia!” And
the cloud moves upward toward the New
Jerusalem, the city of God.

Jesus’ coming will be a bright, shiny,
noisy, happy event. It will be something
like a parade, a big family reunion,
and a holiday all in
one. I want to be
there. Don’t
you?



Daily Activities

Sabbath

- This afternoon go outside with your family and look at the clouds. If you look for a while, the clouds will form different shapes. With your family talk about the clouds when Jesus comes.
- What other Bible stories about clouds can you think of?
- Read your lesson together. Then sing "Jesus Is Coming Again." Thank Jesus that He has promised to return.

Sunday

- With your family read and discuss Matthew 24. List the things that Jesus said will happen before He returns. Thank Jesus for the signs.
- Look in newspapers and magazines for pictures and headlines that tell about these signs. Paste the pictures onto a large sheet of paper to make a collage. Save this for Friday.
- Draw a cloud and write your memory verse on it. Cover up one more word each time you read it.

Monday

- Use this code to find out what we will do to be ready for Jesus to come. The code: ✂=A ✕=B
 ✂=D ✓=E ♦=H ●=I ☉=L ▼=P ✕=R ♦=T ☉=Y

_____ and _____
 ▼ ✕ ✂ ☉ ✕ ✓ ✂ ✕

 ♦ ♦ ✓ ✕ ● ✕ ☉ ✓

- Use a book to find out more about clouds. Share your findings with your family at worship time.
- Sing "Jesus Is Coming Again" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 92) together; then pray that you and your family will be ready to meet Jesus.

Tuesday

- When Jesus returns, He will wear a crown. Make a crown and write on it "I belong to Jesus." Wear it during family worship.
- Read and discuss Matthew 16:27 and Matthew 24:30, 31 for family worship. When Jesus comes, who will be with Him?
- Teach your memory verse to your family.
- Thank Jesus for all of our blessings.

Wednesday

- During family worship ask everyone to help write a letter to Jesus. Tell Him how much you want to be with Him when He comes.
- Read together David's psalm of praise in Psalm 145:1-5, 21.
- Write a family psalm of praise during worship. Include all the things you are thankful for.

Thursday

- With your family read and discuss 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. Who will join Jesus in the clouds? What wakes up the dead? Can you make the noise of a trumpet? Try to find some trumpet music to listen to.
- Draw a clock or make one out of a paper plate. Instead of numbers write SECOND COMING. Draw the hands of the clock pointing to midnight to show that Jesus is coming soon.
- Pray that Jesus will come soon.

Friday

- During family worship show the collage you made earlier this week. Talk about the signs that tell you that Jesus is coming soon.
- At the bottom of the collage write, "I want to be ready to meet Jesus." Ask each member of the family to sign the collage.
- Sing songs about Jesus' coming. Pray that He will come soon, and that your family will be ready.