

## Bible background

Acts 1:1-14; Mark 13:34-37

## Aim of lesson

To encourage the class to be confident of Jesus' return.

## Preparation required

You can use the finger puppets from Lesson 101 to revise. You will need colouring materials and possibly dressing up clothes.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Revise the lesson about the ascension of Jesus using the finger puppets. If they have not survived, have the class 'be' the disciples looking up into heaven. Tell how whilst they were watching him disappear into heaven, two angels came and stood next to them. Ask who wants to be angels. Children do like dressing up, so a white cloth tunic and a tinsel belt may well be popular. Alternatively you could make two finger puppet angels.  
Ask the children to take turns at being an angel and repeating this promise 'Why are you standing looking up into the sky? Jesus will come back again.' You may like the children to use their own words or to learn the exact words given in Acts 1:11.
2. Have the 'disciples' go back to Jerusalem happily after this speech. Ask what they might have discussed. Are they sad Jesus has gone? Are they glad he is coming back? Tell the children about the disciples' desire for the kingdom to come and the question they have asked Jesus about when he would set up the kingdom. Tell the children about his answer that it was not for them to know. Only his Father, God, knew. Jesus gave his disciples something to do for him before he came back to be king; they were to tell all people everywhere about Jesus and his teaching.
3. Use the song 'If You're Happy He Is Coming'.
4. Talk about getting ready for when Jesus comes back. You may like to teach the parable of the man going on a journey here.
5. Use the activity sheet at the end of the lesson or to take home

## Alternative activities

1. You may wish to use some of the activity ideas from lesson 101, or use the same collage again.
2. You could make bookmarks, badges, or hats with smiley faces on. Add an appropriate phrase if you wish e.g. I am happy that Jesus is coming.
3. Take turns to talk about being happy, what do we do when we are happy? What makes us happy? Passing an object or toy around the group helps with the turn taking. When you have the toy it's your turn to talk. Make a class display of pictures on the theme things that make us happy. Talking about their own past experiences will help the children to understand and relate to the concept of a happy event in the future.

## Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children if they are happy that Jesus will come back one day. Try to get them to tell you why they are happy.

## Prayer

Ask the children for their ideas for a prayer which begins 'Dear Lord Jesus, we are happy you are coming back and we would really like to meet you because...'

## Verse

'The Lord himself will come from heaven.' 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

## Song

If you're happy he is coming (Tune: If you're happy and you know it)



If you're happy he is coming, clap your hands (*clap, clap*)  
If you're happy he is coming, clap your hands (*clap, clap*)  
If you're happy he is coming, and you really want to meet him  
If you're happy he is coming, clap your hands (*clap, clap*)

For other verses you can substitute for 'clap your hands': stamp your feet, blink your eyes, shout hooray etc.

Music: Traditional.