

Bible background

Acts 1:1-14; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:14-30

Aim of lesson

To encourage the class to be glad that Jesus is coming back.

Preparation required

You will need colouring materials.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Remind the class of the finger rhyme in Lesson 31. Teach them the new words provided in this lesson.
2. Talk about how glad the disciples were that Jesus is coming back. Tell the class of the disciples' question about when his kingdom would come, and of Jesus' answer in Acts 1:7-8. Ask the children if they also are glad that Jesus is coming back.
3. Teach the song 'Jesus Is Coming Back'.
4. You may like to teach the class the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) here. Bring out its teaching about the return of Christ and the judgement. The activity sheet will help in teaching its application to the disciples and to us.
5. Discuss the pictures on the activity sheet. Ask the children to finish the words with their own name.

Alternative activities

1. If you included the parable of the talents, you could do some coin rubbing or make coin prints in modelling clay.
2. Make a collage picture of a beautiful world.
3. Make two sets of picture symbol cards to represent different aspects of God's Kingdom - for instance:

No guns or war
Food for everyone
No crying or pain
Nobody ill
Jesus is king
Everyone happy
Fierce and tame animals living together
Children playing with 'dangerous' animals

Talk about what each picture represents. Play pairs and see if the children can remember what each picture represents.

2. Circle time: topics for discussion could include - What will be the best thing about Jesus coming back? What would the children like to say to him? What can/should we be doing while we are waiting for him?
3. Have a big sheet of paper with the heading, 'We are waiting for Jesus'. Get everyone to draw themselves on smaller pieces of paper. Help the children to stick their pictures on to the big sheet. Don't forget to stick your own picture on there! The number of children in your class will determine how big each picture will be. If you only have a few students or if you have extra time, the class may like to add family members or teachers and scholars from other classes.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children if they are delighted that Jesus is coming back. How can they be ready to greet him? What would they be ashamed to be found doing when Jesus comes back?

Prayer

Ask the children what prayer the disciples might have said after hearing the angels promise that Jesus would return.

Verse

'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' Luke 23:42.

Song

Jesus is coming back (Tune: Go Tell It On The Mountain)

Musical notation for the song 'Jesus is coming back' (Tune: Go Tell It On The Mountain). The score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves contain the main melody, and the last two staves are labeled 'Chorus'. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, Em, C, D, G, G, Em, A, D7, G, D, G, C, D7, G, C, D7, G.

Chorus: Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus is coming back.

- v.1 The angels told the disciples 'Jesus is coming back'
The disciples were delighted Jesus is coming back, so
- v.2 The disciples told the people 'Jesus is coming back'
The people were delighted Jesus is coming back, so
- v.3 We now know the secret 'Jesus is coming back'
We are all delighted Jesus is coming back, so

Music and original words: Traditional.