

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES

Your Lifeboat

YE4D · Student Workbook

Intermediate · Year 1: Life of Christ

Christian Educational Ministries — a faithful digital edition of the printed program

The Right Stuff

MEMORY VERSE

“Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.” - James 4:10

SCRIPTURES

2 Chronicles 7:14

Proverbs 16:9

Ecclesiastes 5:1-10

Matthew 21:1-11

John 12:12-19

James 4: 5-10

James 4:10

1 Peter 2:21-22

WORDS TO KNOW

HUMILITY - a modest opinion of one's own importance or rank; meekness

DONKEY - a long-eared, slow, surefooted domesticated mammal, related to the horse, used chiefly as a beast of burden

THE LESSON

Have you ever visited England? Did you get to go to the stables at Buckingham Palace and see the royal carriages? At a royal wedding or coronation there's not just a lot of stuff, there's a lot of very expensive stuff – horse drawn carriages, jeweled crowns, beautiful clothing, pomp and circumstance, and pageantry. It's awesome!

In England, the royal couple rides in a glass coach from Buckingham Palace through the streets of London to St. Paul's Cathedral for their wedding. Six beautiful sleek horses pull this carriage. Nothing is too good for a king, queen or future king or queen.

The King of England certainly isn't the first person to be very rich. Jesus' ancestor, King David's son, Solomon, was the wealthiest king on earth. God appeared to Solomon in a dream one night and told him to ask for anything he wanted, and it would be given to him. Wow, what an offer!

What would you have asked for? Solomon didn't ask for riches or honor. He asked for wisdom. It pleased God so much that Solomon asked for wisdom, that He gave him riches and honor as well. This king had plenty of stuff. He became the richest and wisest of all the kings of the earth.

Jesus and His disciples approached Jerusalem one day. They were near the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of the disciples ahead to get a donkey for Him to ride on as He made His entry into Jerusalem – the Holy City. His instructions to the disciples were “Just as you enter, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them here. If anyone asks you what you are doing, just say, ‘The Master needs them,’ and there will be no trouble.”

The two disciples followed Jesus’ instructions and brought the colt to Him. They threw their coats over the donkey for Jesus to sit on. People in the crowd threw their coats on the road in front of Jesus and the colt. Others cut branches from trees and spread them out before Jesus.

As the crowd went ahead and behind Jesus they announced His coming by shouting “God bless King David’s Son!” . . . “God’s Man is here! Bless him, Lord!” . . . “Praise God in highest heaven!”

This didn’t go unnoticed. The entire city of Jerusalem paid close attention as Jesus entered and they ask, “Who is this?” The crowd responded by saying “It is Jesus of Nazareth.” This journey took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem where He entered.

But why did Jesus tell His disciples to get a mere donkey, rather than a beautiful sleek horse with a carriage for Him to ride in to Jerusalem? After all, He is the King of kings! Like other kings, He could afford it because His Father owns everything! But more stuff wasn’t what He was after.

As the promised Messiah, there were many Old Testament prophecies that Jesus had to fulfill while He was on this earth. This was one of them. But what was the point of the prophecy? It was to “Tell Jerusalem her King is coming to her, riding humbly on a donkey’s colt!” Do you think King Charles III or Prince William would be caught dead riding on a mere donkey to Buckingham Palace? Jesus didn’t choose a beautiful sleek horse to make His entry into Jerusalem. Instead, He chose a long-eared, slow, surefooted domesticated beast of burden to ride. But even stranger than that, it was a donkey’s colt! Why, because it symbolized the humility and peace. Jesus made His entry into Jerusalem as a lowly humble servant.

Physical stuff just wasn’t important to Jesus. Even Solomon, with all of his riches, learned that stuff just isn’t that important. He said, “The more you have, the more you spend, right up to the limits of your income, so what is the advantage of wealth – except perhaps to watch it as it runs through your fingers!” (Ecclesiastes 5:11 TLB). Solomon concluded this book by saying “fear God and obey his commandments, for this is the entire duty of man. For God will judge us for everything we do, including every hidden thing, good or bad.”

Can you see that the stuff Jesus was made of was humility? But what kind of stuff should you be made of? In 1 Peter 2:21b it says “Christ, who suffered for you is your example. Follow in his steps.” What did He do that shows His humility? Verse 22 says, “He never sinned, never told a

lie, never answered back when insulted; when he suffered he did not threaten to get even; he left his case in the hands of God who always judges fairly.

The stuff the King of kings chose was not more physical things. It was humility and service. He chose to ride the long-eared beast of burden. Then He carried our burdens on Himself and gave up everything He had when He died for our sins. This was the greatest act of service anyone could do and He did it humbly. Will you follow in Jesus' footsteps, repent of your ego, pride and vanity and humbly follow Jesus' example? Will you start putting sin out of your life, stop lying and stop answering back even when insulted? Will you start humbly serving others?

Jesus humbled Himself more than any man. When Jesus returns to this earth He will come with great glory riding on a horse, not a long-eared beast of burden. He will have the exalted position as King of kings! God wants to exalt you as well. But before He can, you must humble yourself. "Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up" (James 4:10).

Humility pays big! It's the right stuff!

STUDENT PRAYER

Almighty God,

Thank you for your Son who was truly made of the right stuff. He didn't choose physical stuff such as riches and fame. He made His entry into the Holy City on a long-eared beast of burden and humbly gave His life for my sins. It was the greatest act of service ever! Help me to show humility by putting sin out of my life, stop lying and stop answering back even when I'm insulted.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday: Matthew 21:1-11

Monday: John 12: 12-15

Tuesday: 1 Peter 2:21

Wednesday: Ecclesiastes 5:1-10

Thursday: James 4: 5-10

Friday: Proverbs 16:9

Saturday: 2 Chronicles 7:14

Activity

Imagine yourself in the World Trade Center as the plane crashes into it. Check the following things that you as a teenager would consider important to have at that time.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ DVD | ☐ Designer clothes |
| ☐ TV for your room | ☐ Cell phone |
| ☐ Computer | ☐ Motor cycle or jet skis |
| ☐ VCR | ☐ Video game equipment |
| ☐ Assurance of your safety | ☐ Knowing that God answers prayer |

How do you think the stuff you have ranks with the friends you run with?

- ☐ Stuff not as good as theirs
- ☐ Stuff about the same as theirs
- ☐ Stuff better than theirs



If you were given a lot of money today, what would you do with it?



☐ Have a good time with my friends

☐ Spend it on more stuff

☐ Give it to a church or other religious organizations to get the Gospel out

☐ Help my family

☐ Save it for my education

☐ Give it to help the poor

For the Love of Money

MEMORY VERSE

“All who are honest and fair, who reject making profit by fraud, who hold back their hands from taking bribes, who refuse to listen to those who plot murder, who shut their eyes to all enticement to do wrong. Such as these shall dwell on high.” - Isaiah 33:15b-16a (TLB)

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 33:15-16

Isaiah 56:6-8

Matthew 6:19

Matthew 21:12-17

Mark 11:15

Luke 12:15

John 2:13-17

1 Timothy 6:10

WORDS TO KNOW

MONEYCHANGERS - Men who trimmed and clipped small amounts of silver and gold from coins, and charged to change money.

STENCH - unpleasant odor or smell

THE LESSON

Mike was three years older than Katie and was often seen sketching people. His art work wasn't bad. He had sold a few drawings at street markets hoping someday to make it rich as an artist. Katie thought Mike was cute. And she couldn't keep her mind off of him. Being only 14, Katie knew her parents would disapprove of her dating a guy three years older than she was. So she just admired him from a distance.

Mike's home life was pretty rough. His mother had mental problems and his dad had divorced her and remarried. Mike and his two siblings disrespectfully called their new step mother the "Ugly Witch." It wasn't long before a new baby came along. Dad had never really spent much time with his kids. Neither did their step mom. But now the new baby got all of their attention. To say the least, Mike felt rejected and lonely. Life was bad, he thought.

It wasn't long before Mike turned to drugs for comfort, relief and money. Every time Katie walked by his house, she saw a different car across the street. Suspicion began to grow in her mind that Mike was dealing in drugs. Later a friend confirmed that Mike was a big drug dealer – making lots of money off the kids at school.

Three short months passed, and out of the blue Katie's friend came running to her door. "They've found Mike, and he's dead!" the friend screamed. Katie followed her to the creek bed on a nearby vacant lot. Police cars were everywhere. What an awful sight! Mike was hanging lifeless from a tree. His problems seemed huge, but the solution was deadly. No one knows who killed Mike, or if he hung himself. But the results are the same. He's dead!

For whatever reasons, Mike lost his purpose. He not only sought relief from his misery and comfort in drugs, but he also became greedy. He wasn't willing to wait for the right time to develop his artistic skills and make a good honest living. He wanted to make a killing now!

Some people in Jesus' day were equally greedy. They too were unwilling to wait for the right time and right place to make an honest living. We learned in our last lesson that Jesus humbly rode on a long-eared, slow beast of burden into the Holy City. The Passover season was approaching. People were coming to Jerusalem to offer their sacrifice. This muscular young Jesus approached the outer court of the Temple and was met with the smell of a barn. This was the only area in the Temple where Gentiles were allowed to come and pray. As Jesus entered, He found oxen, sheep and crates of doves all over God's house. The smell of incense mixed with the odor of manure was a ghastly stench!

Merchants knew pilgrims traveling into Jerusalem to keep the Passover would need an animal to sacrifice. These merchants wanted to make a fast buck, and were willing to be dishonest in their dealings in order to do it. They didn't set up their market stalls in down town Jerusalem. They set them up in the beautiful Temple of God. Even worse, they set them up in the only place in the Temple where Gentiles could worship. The Temple was not just a place where Jews and Israelites worshiped, Gentiles worshiped there as well. The moneychangers not only robbed the people in their dishonest dealings, they robbed the Gentiles of their place of worship. Jesus saw them doing wrong and dealt with it.

How would you have felt walking into a sacred building, God's Temple, and finding merchants selling sheep, oxen and doves? What would you have done? Jesus didn't even try to hide His disappointment, disgust and righteous anger. It's no wonder that Jesus was angry. His Father had designed the Temple. God, Himself, gave specific instructions for the building of this structure. It may have been more beautiful than any building on earth at this time.

As Jesus cracked His whip doves' feathers flew, sheep and oxen fled. "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations" Jesus thundered. Those words echoed throughout the Temple.

Jesus knocked over their tables and ran them and their customers out saying they had turned His Temple into a den of thieves.

Jesus came to die for the sins of all people. He is not just the Savior for the Jews and Israelites. He is also the Savior for the Gentiles as well. “As for the Gentiles, the outsiders who join the people of the Lord and serve him and love his name, and are his servants and don’t desecrate the Sabbath, and have accepted his covenant and promises, I will bring them also to my holy mountain of Jerusalem and make them full of joy within my House of Prayer. I will accept their sacrifices and offerings, for my Temple shall be called ‘A House of Prayer for all people’”(Isaiah 56:6-8 TLB).

Dr. Dobson says, “Whatever a person hungers for, Satan will appear to offer.” Mike wanted to get rich quick. So he allowed one thing to lead to another in his life. In his misery, he tried to get rich fast and he paid for it with his life. The moneychangers tried to short cut the system by setting up markets in the Temple and robbing the people. Jesus gave their business a severe blow by running them and their animals out of the Temple. “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15). Obeying God always pays. No matter our pain or circumstances, God will honor the person who deals honestly with all people.

STUDENT PRAYER

Great God and Father,
Thank you for giving us the Ten Commandments that show us how to live our lives in such a way to prevent getting hurt. We know that getting involved in drugs put Mike’s life at risk. And he paid a terribly price for it. Help me never to even consider using or dealing in drugs.
In Jesus’ name I pray.
Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday: Matthew 21:12-17

Monday: John 2:13-17

Tuesday: Isaiah 56:6-8

Wednesday: Luke 12:15

Thursday: 1 Timothy 6:10

Friday: Matthew 6:19

Saturday: Mark 11:15

Activity

Let's pretend that you are Mike's friend and you know he is being tempted to take and deal in drugs. You're fully aware of his dysfunctional family life and how it's affecting him. On the lines below, write Mike a letter of support and encouragement and try to help him through this time without you becoming involved with drugs. Help him to understand where this might lead and what he should do to get away from drugs. Show him how you can help him.



More Than Looks

MEMORY VERSE

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” - Galatians 5:22 (The NIV Study Bible for Kids)

SCRIPTURES

Matthew 7:19-21

Matthew 21:18-22

Mark 11:12-14

Mark 11:20-24

Galatians 5:19-26

Galatians 5:22

James 3:16-18

Revelation 22:1-5

WORDS TO KNOW

EXCELLENCE - the fact or state of excelling; superiority

PICTURESQUE - visually charming or quaint

ASTONISHING - causing surprise or amazement

THE LESSON

Have you ever gone to the mountains to ski? Snow is a most necessary part of this excursion— no snow, no skiing. So if there’s not a good pack of snow on the ski slopes, they put up signs that say “pray for snow.” If you’ve gone to all the trouble to get your ski cloths and gear, you want it to snow, and snow a lot of that white powdery stuff. You want to see snow on the evergreens and drifts and mounds stacked high. Oh, that beautiful white stuff! What’s prettier than a fresh fall of snow? We all love the picturesque winter wonderland. It’s beautiful!

But what if that big snow fall comes as you’re starting down the mountain for home? Every car, roof top and the roads are now covered with blanket of at least a foot of snow. The weather report says flakes are piled two, three and five feet tall and getting deeper. What if you have no chains for your tires? The snow may look beautiful, but getting down the mountain safely can be more important than looks. Driving in snow can be very dangerous if you don’t have chains. Icy

spots can form. Before long you can do a fast 180 and find your car pointed in a direction you had never intended to go. There is more to snow than just looks. It can cause a person's death.

Jesus had spent the night in Bethany and the next morning He headed out to Jerusalem. He was hungry and notice a beautiful fig tree beside the road that was all leafed out. Fresh ripe figs right off the tree can taste mighty good when you're hungry. So Jesus went over to the tree to find some figs to eat. He pushed back the branches and the leaves and began searching for at least a single fig, but only found leaves. That fig tree looked beautiful with all its leaves, but there was no fruit on the tree. The tree hadn't served its purpose, which was to bear fruit. So Jesus made the point that there's more to a fig tree than just looking good.

He said to the fig tree, "Never bear fruit again!" An astonishing thing happened. In just a short time, the fig tree went all limp and withered up. He had some of His disciples with Him and they were utterly amazed. They asked Jesus, "How did the fig tree wither so quickly." You know, they may have asked the wrong question. Maybe they should have asked, "Why did the fig tree wither so quickly?"

Oh, Jesus was hungry, but was eating a fig to satisfy His hunger that important to Him?

Remember, He fasted for forty days before Satan tempted Him. So He knew He wouldn't die if He didn't find a fig to eat on that tree. But what about the tree? It died!

If Jesus could make do without having a fig to eat, what was He trying to tell us? Jesus said, "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them" (Matthew 7:19). This fig tree on which Jesus searched for figs, didn't bear any fruit, so He told it to never bear fruit again and it immediately withered or died. What is the message for you? There are two. One message is that we must bear fruit or we will wither and die just like that fig tree did. We will be cut down and thrown into the fire. And two, Jesus knows that we are His children by the kind of fruit we bear.

What are fruits a Christian should bear? Galatians 5:22 says the fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Does this sound like the type of person you are? Can your friends at school see these fruits in your life? If Jesus went searching for fruits in your life and looked beyond the "leaves" such as designer jeans and Tommy Hilfiger sweaters, would he see a heart filled with love, joy, and peace? What about patience and kindness? Are you a little short on patience and kindness when your sibling doesn't do what you want and when you want it?

What about goodness? Do you know what that means? Goodness is moral excellence. Would you say a person with moral excellence wouldn't use drugs, smoke, have sex until he's married, including oral sex? Do you think a person filled with goodness would cheat on an exam or shoplift? Would they be home at the time their parents set for them?

Obtaining these fruits are for your own good. But if you're going to have goodness, or moral excellence, you must go beyond doing what is good for you and do good to others. Look around you, there's never a day that passes that someone in your community doesn't need help that you can give. If your moral excellence is more than looks, start with your family. What can you do each day to lighten your mom's load? She gets tired too. Can you put the dishes in the dishwasher, fold the clothes, clean your room, feed the dog, or put the groceries away, without being asked or complaining?

What about your church? Is there an elderly or sick person you can send a card? Can you help straighten chairs after service? Can you hand out songbooks or the bulletin? What about your community? Can you serve meals to the poor and needy at your local Salvation Army on Christmas day? This is not keeping Christmas. It's taking care of the needs of the poor and hungry. The Salvation Army usually runs short of volunteers on this holiday. Can you adopt an elderly person at a nursing home and take them flowers, read the Bible to them, pick up things they need from the store? Bearing these fruits will keep you from withering as the fig tree did. These things are goodness – moral excellence. Doing these things are more than looks!

STUDENT PRAYER

Loving God,

There was a reason why Jesus caused the fig tree to wither. It wasn't bearing fruit. Thank you for this lesson that shows so clearly that I must bear fruit or I may wither as fast as the fig tree. Help me now to live a life that is more than looks. Grant that I may have a life filled with moral excellence.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday: Matthew 7:19-21

Monday: Matthew 21:18-22

Tuesday: Mark 11:12-14

Wednesday: Mark 11:20-24

Thursday: Galatians 5:19-26

Friday: Revelation 22:1-5

Saturday: James 3:16-18

Activity

Unscramble this Scripture and see what message it has in it for you. Then answer the questions below. You'll need them in class.

Hint: R=I & F=S

R A L Z H B Z Q O B Q F Z B W
 U Y B G R O Q A B Y E R F
 Y Q P L W R G Q F' L Z O Q F U Q N R L P P H
 A B Y E R F R C C Q O R L W Q A L C R P H
 E Q E L F O Q Z R Q O W E Q A L R W E
 L Z O R F J B Y F Q W E L Z L Z
 T Z D Q P R Q G Q Y'

- Where do you start first in giving help to others? _____
- If you don't give help to your immediate family, what are you compared to? _____
- List two ways that you can give help to your family and which family member will receive this help.
 - _____
 - _____
- List four ways that you can serve in your church or your community and when you will do it.
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Signs of the End

MEMORY VERSE

“For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, ‘Peace and safety,’ destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

SCRIPTURES

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

Matthew 24:1-51

WORDS TO KNOW

IMMINENT - likely to occur at any moment

RAMPANT - unchecked; widespread

THE LESSON

September 11, 2001 began like any other day in New York City. The people awakened, got dressed, had breakfast, and with various means of transportation, made their way to work and to school. Some went to the World Trade Center Twin Towers. As usual, these people felt safe. After all, they lived in a nation where wars just aren't fought on our soil, so they thought. They didn't have a clue that destruction was imminent. So they pushed their way into crowded elevators. The door closed and the elevator started up the tower. Some got out on the second floor and started their day's work. Then the elevator ascended to the third floor, the tenth floor, 39th, 50th, 99th floor, etc.

No one would have imagined that within a couple of hours nearly three thousand people in those twin towers would be dead and many more injured. Who would have dreamed that anyone would be so evil as to fly a plane into a building. . . intentionally? But even more astonishing, four people were evil enough to do this. The rush to the stairs began. Smoke filled the buildings. And people ran for their lives. The temperature began to rise from the fire until it passed one thousand degrees. No one could have imagined that the steel structure in these two buildings would melt to the ground. It was no ordinary fire – it was still burning three months later. No one expected this tragedy. But this horrible destruction happened suddenly. This is how Jesus said that the end time events that lead to His return would happen.

Do you remember we talked about the fig tree last week? Jesus has something else He wants us to learn from the fig tree. “When a fig tree’s branch is tender and the leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is almost here. Just so, when you see all these things beginning to happen, you can know that my return is near, even at the doors. Then at last this age will come to a close” (Matthew 24:32-34 TLB).

Do you want to know what the future holds for you? Have you always found the Book of Revelation intriguing, but never understood it? What are these things that will begin to happen? As Jesus sat on the slopes of the Mount of Olives He outlined these things, to His disciples, that will precede His return. We find this in Matthew 24. Jesus first said that many would come claiming to be the Messiah. But He warned us not to believe them.

Jesus went on to tell His disciples that there would be wars, famines and earthquakes in many places. We know there have always been wars, famines and earthquakes. So did Jesus. And He told us that these things are not the end – it’s only the beginning of things that will happen.

Next He mentions religious persecution, false prophets trying to lead people astray, and sin being rampant. Then He warns us not to let our love for Him cool down, and He promises that those who remain faithful to the end will be saved. The “Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it, and then, finally, the end will come.” In your life time this has not only become possible, but a reality with the Internet and web sites. Anywhere around the world you can listen to the Born to Win program on the CEM web site. The address is www.cemnetwork.com.

At this point Jesus gave some extremely important information to those who will be living in the hills of Judea around Jerusalem at the end times. He refers back to a time when Antiochus Ephiphanes erected a pagan altar to Zeus in the Temple of God in 168 B.C. He warns that something very similar will happen again. Jesus went on to say, “Let those in Judea flee to the mountains.” Leave immediately, He said, and don’t even go back into your houses to get a coat.

Jesus begins to explain why He must come back. Sin, sickness, crime and violence will be unprecedented. He sees that if He doesn’t intervene, everyone will be destroyed. So His return is a rescue mission. Just as He saved the Israelites from horrible slavery, He will once again intervene and save His people from even worse.

In verse 29 Jesus begins to explain the heavenly signs that will take place just before He returns. “The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light: and stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.” He says it’s “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn.” Why do you think they will mourn? He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call to gather His true believers from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other to save them and give them eternal life!

Do you want Jesus to return to this earth real soon? Will you be ready, or will you be one who mourns? What can you do to be sure you are ready? Jesus will not save anyone who does not believe on Him and has not repented of their sins. “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). That gift of the Holy Spirit will give you eternal life! Are you ready for the end to come?

Jesus alerts us to be prepared, for we don’t know what day He will come. The people in the World Trade Center had no signs that those towers would collapse on 9-11. But Jesus gave all who believe on Him signs of the end to watch for. “You are not in the dark about these things, and you won’t be surprised as by a thief when that day of the Lord comes. For you are all children of the light and of the day, and do not belong to darkness and night. So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Watch for his return and stay sober” (2 Thessalonians 5:4-6).

STUDENT PRAYER

Great God and Father,

Thank you that you will send your Son back to this earth. Our world is in such a mess and we know it’s not going to get better until you come back and make it right. Help me Father, to love you more, to live a life that pleases you and to want your Kingdom to come.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

Monday: 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6

Tuesday: Matthew 24:1-8

Wednesday: Matthew 24:9-14

Thursday: Matthew 24:15-26

Friday: Matthew 24: 27-39

Saturday: Matthew 24:40-51

Activity

How do you feel about Jesus coming back to this earth? Circle the ones that describe your feelings.

Excited

Scared

Want it delayed

Want a life first

Sad

Happy

Motivated

Cheated

Worried

Write a sentence telling why you want Jesus to come soon or not to come soon.

Circle the answer that best fits your feelings.

- | | | | |
|---|-----|------------|----|
| 1. The world will be a much better place when Christ returns. | Yes | Don't Know | No |
| 2. I like the world the way it is. | Yes | Don't Know | No |
| 3. I want more time to do the things I want and like. | Yes | Don't Know | No |
| 4. This world is evil and really needs for Jesus to return | Yes | Don't Know | No |
| 5. I'm ready for Jesus to return. | Yes | Don't Know | No |
| 6. I would like to learn more about Jesus' return | Yes | Don't Know | No |

Write down three questions that you have about the return of Christ.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

On the lines below, write a brief statement telling why you feel the return of Christ is so important.

The Last Supper

MEMORY VERSE

“But he was wounded and bruised for our sins. He was chastised that we might have peace, he was lashed — and we were healed!” - Isaiah 53:5 (TLB)

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 53:1-6

Isaiah 53:5

Matthew 26:17-30

Mark 14:12-26

Luke 22:7-38

John 13:1-38

John 14:1-31

Hebrews 9:21-25

WORDS TO KNOW

PRONOUNCEMENT - a formal or authoritative announcement

BAR MITZVAH - A ceremony that permits a boy of 13 into the Jewish community as an adult

RAMADAN - the daily fast for Islam

THE LESSON

No matter where your friends attend church, they have days they celebrate and ceremonies they perform. All religions do. Some may be very different and some very similar to what you do. Your Christian friends at school may have had a confirmation ceremony. Your Jewish friends have probably had their Bar Mitzvah by now or will very soon. Islamic people celebrate Ramadan when they fast during the day and are only allowed to eat at night. Jesus had days He celebrated and ceremonies He performed. He was obedient to His Father’s commands and always celebrated the Passover.

It was the spring of the year and all of the Israelites were cleaning their homes to get the leavening out before the Days of Unleavened Bread began. The disciples went to Jesus and asked, “Where shall we plan to eat the Passover?”

“He replied, ‘Go into the city and see Mr. So- and-So, and tell him, ‘Our Master says, my time has come, and I will eat the Passover meal with my disciples at your house. So the disciples did as he told them, and prepared the supper there” (Matthew 26:17b-19).

The sun had set and the day of the Passover had arrived. Jesus sat down with His twelve disciples. He took off His robe and wrapped a towel around His waist. He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciple’s feet. Peter protested, “Master, you shouldn’t be washing our feet like this!” Jesus told Peter that he didn’t understand why He was doing this. Again Peter said, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus told him that if he wouldn’t allow Him to wash his feet, “you will have no part with me.” At that point Peter got a little excited and said, “Lord don’t just wash my feet, but my hands and head as well.”

Jesus looked at His disciples and said, “One of you will betray me.” This must have shocked eleven of His disciples because this thought had never entered their minds. They all began to ask, “Am I the One?” Jesus told them that it was the one He had served first. He went on to explain that He was going to soon die as it had been prophesied. But Jesus’ betrayer was still on His mind, and He said “woe to the man by whom I am betrayed. Far better for that one if he had never been born.”

Wow! What a pronouncement. How would you feel if Jesus told you that it would have been better if you had never been born? Judas got his courage up and asked Jesus if he would be the one to betray Him. There was no doubt in Judas’s mind that he was the one. But he had to know if Jesus really knew that he was. Notice verse 14. Judas had already gone to the chief priests and asked them how much they would pay him to deliver Jesus into their hands. They gave him 30 silver coins. Then Judas began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus. Yes, Jesus did know and He confirmed that Judas was the betrayer.

At this Passover, Jesus introduced new symbols into the service. He took unleavened bread and broke it explaining to the disciples to “Take it and eat it, for this is my body.” What? Jesus was giving them bread, not His human flesh. So what did He mean? He meant that the bread represented or was a symbol of His body that He would give for their healing in less than 24 hours. “But he was wounded and bruised for our sins. He was chastised that we might have peace; he was lashed – and we were healed!” (Isaiah 53:5 TLB).

The next new symbol Jesus introduced into the Passover service was wine. Jesus took a cup of wine and blessed it. He gave it to the disciples and told them to drink from this cup, “for this is my blood, sealing the New Covenant.” But the Bible strictly forbids the drinking of blood. What did Jesus mean when He said this was His blood? Again, He was using the wine as a symbol for His blood. And He knew that in less than 24 hours He would shed His life’s blood so that your sins, my sins and the sins of the world could be forgiven. He knew that this was the only way we could have forgiveness of our sins.

In Old Testament times, when people sinned, they went to the Temple and offered the blood of an animal sacrifice for their sins. This was done looking forward to this Passover when Jesus Christ would give His life's blood for the sins of the world. Hebrews 9:22 says "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." In other words, the only way your sins can be forgiven is through the shedding of blood – the blood of Jesus Christ. That's how bad and how serious sin is. And this is what the small glass of wine in the Passover service represented when Jesus took it with His disciples and when we take it today.

All Passover services should be very solemn, and this one was particularly solemn. For Jesus knew He would soon suffer horribly and die. He told His disciples that this was the last time that He would keep the Passover with them until His Kingdom is set up on earth. Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

Think about how difficult this must have been for Jesus. He knew that every one of His disciples would desert Him in this terrible trial that He was facing. Jesus told them that they would. Oh, they didn't think they would. Peter even reassured Jesus that "if everyone else deserts you, I won't." Jesus knew better. He told Peter that he would deny Him three times before the rooster crows at dawn. What would it take for you to desert Jesus? Are you as sure as Peter was that it could never happen? But when you turn your back on obeying God's law, you are deserting Jesus. That is sin. And Jesus died that you might have forgiveness of your sins. He came to be your Lifeboat and save you from your sins. Will you repent of breaking God's law? Will you obey Him? He gave His all for you. Will you give your life to Him?

STUDENT PRAYER

Gracious Father,

It is totally inadequate for me to just say thank you for giving your Son as a sacrifice for my sins. He paid the full penalty for what I should have received – death. I owe Him my all. I want to live every day of my life for Him. Forgive me of my sins and provide me with the strength to show Jesus how much I love and appreciate Him.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday: Matthew 26:17-30

Monday: Mark 14:12-26

Tuesday: Luke 22:7-38

Wednesday: John 13:1-28

Thursday: John 14:1-31

Friday: Isaiah 53:1-6

Saturday: Hebrews 9:21-26

Activity

We've learned in our lesson that the broken body of Jesus Christ was for our healing – “By His stripes we are healed.” Think of scriptures that are relevant to healing or forgiveness that begin with one of the letters in the word ‘healing’. It can be a phrase or a complete verse. Write the phrase or verse beside the letter (first letter in the word) that it begins with and include your Scripture reference. You may use your concordance or ask your parents to join you in doing this activity. You'll get an extra point if you can find another Scripture for “I” other than the example given below.

H

E

A

L

I

N

G

I may forgive their iniquities and sins” (Isaiah 36:3)

Sleepy Friends

MEMORY VERSE

“Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.” - Luke 13:24 (NIV)

SCRIPTURES

Proverbs 20:13

Proverbs 24:30-34

Matthew 25:1-13

Matthew 26:30-56

Luke 13:24

Luke 22:39-46

John 18:1-12

Romans 13:11-14

WORDS TO KNOW

LEUKEMIA - cancer of the bone marrow characterized by an increase in white blood cells which brings about anemia

THE LESSON

Katie and Diane grew up in the same small town and started the first grade together. They were best friends who lived within three blocks of each other. Rarely a day passed without them seeing each other. They laughed and played together. Frequently they slept over at each other's houses. As luck would have it, they were always in the same class. Katie was like Diane's shadow – when you saw Diane, you knew Katie wasn't far behind.

Oddly enough, they even had the same birthday. Their moms always planned one birthday party for the two of them. Their birthday parties were big celebrations. They got such neat presents and had so much fun.

At Katie's and Diane's 12th birthday party, everyone noticed how pale Katie looked. She was always tired. Her mother took her to the doctor to see if there was a problem. She was in and out of the hospital for tests. It seemed as though every test in the book was run on her. The results came back and the news was not good. Katie had leukemia. Treatments didn't arrest the disease. And Katie grew weaker and weaker.

The bad news came that Katie wasn't expected to live through the night. The one thing she found to be a real comfort to her was her friend, Diane. She had such fond memories of the many times they had spent the night together. Diane could always make Katie laugh. In the past, spending the night with Diane had been an all night laugh session. So her last request was that Diane come to the hospital and spend the night with her. Diane being a true friend, was there to hold Katie's hand, to try to make her laugh, and to pray for a miracle. But Katie lost the battle.

Have you ever had a friend with terminal cancer or visited someone who is dying? What do you say to him? How do you act around him? What kind of reassuring words can you give at a time like this? If your closest friend was dying, could you stay awake all night long and be there to give strength and encouragement?

After Jesus and His disciples finished with the Passover, Jesus and 11 of His best friends headed over to the Garden of Gethsemane. He knew that the very next day He would die a horrible death. Jesus said to His disciples, "My soul is crushed with horror and sadness to the point of death. . . stay here. . . stay awake with me."

Even though Jesus was the Son of God and soon to be a Spirit being, He was still just as human as you are. He had needs and fears. The thought of dying was just as difficult for Him as it would be for you. This was the toughest night of His life. He needed the encouragement and comfort of His friends, the disciples.

"He went forward a little, and fell face downward on the ground, and prayed, 'My Father! If it is possible, let this cup be taken away from me. But I want your will, not mine'." He returned to His friends – the disciples, and found them asleep.

Do you remember Peter in our last lesson? He said He would never deny Jesus, but here he was asleep when Jesus needed him. He couldn't even stay awake one hour when his Friend, his Savior, was filled with sorrow and sadness beyond words. Then Jesus encouraged His disciples to stay alert and pray. Otherwise temptation would overpower them. And He left them again to pray.

This time Jesus said, "My Father! If this cup cannot go away until I drink it all, your will be done." He went back to His friends. Again, their eyes were heavy and they were asleep. So

He went back and prayed the third time. "Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him, for he was in such agony of spirit that he broke into a sweat of blood, with great drops falling to the ground as he prayed more and more earnestly "(Luke 22:43-45 TLB).

He was absolutely exhausted from grief as He returned to His disciples and found them asleep again. He told them to get up and pray that they would not fall when they were tempted. As these words were coming out of His mouth, a mob led by Judas the betrayer showed up. He gave

Jesus a “friendly” kiss on the cheek so the mob could identify Him. At last the sleepy friends came awake enough to realize this mob was going to arrest Jesus.

It would be easy for us to think that we could stay awake with our friend if he knew he would be killed the next day. And maybe we could. But are we a sleepy friend of Jesus, that is spiritually asleep, or are we really awake? In Matthew 25 Jesus gave a parable of five wise and five foolish virgins. The five wise virgins had oil in their lamps. Oil is a symbol of having God’s Spirit. The five foolish virgins slumbered and slept. The bridegroom came, which is symbolic of Jesus returning to this earth, but the door was shut to the foolish virgins who slumbered and slept. The message here is that we can’t make it into God’s Kingdom if we are a sleepy friend of Jesus. We must have His Spirit and be busy doing the work of our Father. Are you a sleepy friend of Jesus? Or are you awake and on fire for Jesus with God’s Spirit directing your life?

STUDENT PRAYER

Oh Merciful Father,
Thank you so much for my Savior, Jesus Christ. Please give me oil in my lamp, your Spirit, that I may be on fire for Jesus and have His Spirit directing every aspect of my life. Please help me to never be a sleepy friend of Jesus.
I pray this in His holy and righteous name.
Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday: Matthew 26:30-56

Monday: Luke 22:39-46

Tuesday: John 18:1-12

Wednesday: Matthew 25:1-13

Thursday: Proverbs 20:13

Friday: Romans 13:11-14

Saturday: Proverbs 24:30-34

Activity

Christians can't just stand still and make it into God's Kingdom. We must be growing and becoming more like Jesus Christ every day of our lives. So get ready, set, grow! Answer the questions below to see how you are doing.

1. Growing as a Christian means that a person has to give up all the fun things.

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Maybe

2. The reason I want to grow as a Christian is to: (Circle the ones that best fit you).

To have a better relationship with Christ

To keep from going to hell

To make it into God's Kingdom

To be an example to others

To obtain a better reward in the Kingdom

To glorify God in my life

3. I will try to do the following things in order to grow as a Christian (check the ones you plan to do).

_____ Pray every day

_____ Read my daily devotionals every day

_____ Attend YEA classes each week

_____ Listen to the *Born to Win* broadcast

_____ Pay attention to the sermon

_____ Sing the hymns and notice the words

_____ Serve others at church

_____ Serve in my community

_____ Tithe of my increase

_____ Read my YEA lesson each week

_____ Memorize my memory verse

_____ Talk with my friends about Jesus

_____ Repent of my sins daily

_____ Honor my parents

4. Read the following Scriptures: 2 Peter 3:18; Luke 2:52; Ephesians 4:14,15; 1 Peter 2:2. Now write a short statement on the following lines telling what you think is the theme in all of these verses.

Who Killed Jesus?

MEMORY VERSE

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.” - Romans 12:1 (The New Adventure Bible)

SCRIPTURES

Matthew 26:57-68

Matthew 27:1-2

Mark 14:53-65

Luke 22:51

Luke 23:1-48

John 3:16

Romans 12:1

Romans 12:1-3

WORDS TO KNOW

VERDICT - any judgment or decision

SYMBOLICALLY - serving as a symbol; something that represents something else

BLASPHEMY - an act of cursing or reviling God

THE LESSON

A cloud of dust covered a café parking lot as a motorcycle gang on Harley-Davidson’s roared to a screeching halt. As they set down their kickstands, they noticed they had parked next to a Peterbilt truck whose driver they knew. “Just wait until that wimp see us,” one gang member said as they stomped into the café.

“Who’s this sissy sitting at the counter?” they asked. The man at the counter continued to eat his meal as the gang approached. One gang member grabbed the truck driver’s ice tea and poured it on his head. The driver didn’t say a word as he wiped his face and shirt with his napkin.

The 12 gang members surrounded the truck driver forming a semicircle. The truck driver appeared unperturbed. One of the gang picked up a handful of mashed potatoes and stuck them in the truck driver’s ear. Then he wiped his hands on the driver’s shirt. The driver still didn’t say

a word. The truck driver paid his bill and started for his truck. The gang leader laughed and said “What a wimp. That guy ain’t much of a man.”

The owner of the café paused, looking out the window of the café, and said, “No, he ain’t much of a man either. He just ran over 12 Harleys.” This story from Smokey and the Bandit reminds us of when Jesus encountered a gang of men who also thought He was a wimp. Judas arrived in the Garden of Gethsemane with a mob wanting blood. Armed with swords and clubs, they were sent by the chief priests and elders – the religious leaders of the day – to find Jesus.

Judas had given prior instructions to arrest the man he greeted. He went straight to Jesus and gave Him a “friendly” kiss. Jesus knew why Judas came with this gang. He also knew why He came to this earth. He came to be Our Lifeboat – our Savior to die for our sins. He told Judas to go ahead and do what he had come to do.

Peter immediately came to Jesus’ defense. He pulled out a sword and slashed off the ear of the High Priest’s servant. “Put away your sword.” Jesus touched the place where the man’s right ear had been and made it whole. He told Peter, “Those using swords will get killed. Don’t you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what is happening now? ‘Am I some dangerous criminal,’ he asked, ‘that you had to arm yourselves with swords and clubs before you could arrest me? I was with you teaching daily in the Temple and you didn’t stop me then.’”

Then the mob arrested Jesus and led Him to Caiaphas the High Priest’s house where the entire Jewish Supreme Court was gathered. They were trying to put a case together so they could kill Jesus. The only way they could do it was to find liars. But the liars didn’t even agree with one another.

“Finally two men were found who declared, ‘This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’

“Then the High Priest stood up and said to Jesus, ‘Well, what about it? Did you say that, or didn’t you?’ But Jesus remained silent.” Do you think the truck driver may have been a Bible reader and thought it wise to follow Jesus’ example? Whatever his reason, it was an especially wise decision since 12 gang members were up against one truck driver.

Jesus was accused of blasphemy! The High Priest asked for a verdict from the mob and they shouted, “Death! – Death! – Death!”

The mob spat in Jesus’ face, struck Him and slapped Him. Then they sent Him in chains to Pilate, the Roman governor. When the Jewish religious leader accused Jesus, He said nothing. Jesus was anything but a wimp. He showed strength of character, courage and self control. He knew what He was born to do. And He was willing to do it.

It was the Jewish religious custom to release one prisoner every year on the Passover, and Jesus' arrest happened on the Passover. Pilate's wife had a dream, or nightmare, and sent her husband a message that he should release Jesus. Pilate knew the religious leaders had arrested Jesus out of envy because of His popularity with the people.

Barabbas, a notorious criminal was in jail. The chief priests and Jewish leaders convinced the crowd to ask that Barabbas, rather than Jesus be released on the Passover. Pilate went before the crowd and asked what he should do with Jesus, their Messiah. They shouted, "Crucify Him."

Pilate saw that he wasn't getting anywhere, and a riot was shaping up. So he asked for a bowl of water and washed his hands, symbolically showing that he was not responsible for Jesus' death. He said, "I am innocent of the blood of this good man. The responsibility is yours!"

Was Pilate truly innocent? Were the religious leaders solely responsible for the death of Jesus? Or, do the Roman soldiers bear this responsibility? Who did kill Jesus? He was a perfect man who had never sinned, yet He submitted Himself to humiliation, extreme suffering and death. It was for the sins of the world, my sins and your sins, that Jesus died. "For God so loved the world (you and me) that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes on Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). We are all responsible for the death of Jesus Christ. If you had been the only person to ever sin, Jesus would have still had to die to pay the penalty for your sins. Jesus set us an example of how to live, how to face suffering and how to die. He paid the supreme penalty for our sins. What do we owe Him? We owe Him a repentant obedient life that always puts Him first. We owe Him everything!

STUDENT PRAYER

Gracious Father,

Thank you for giving your Son, Jesus Christ, for my sins. I am responsible for the death of Jesus Christ. He suffered horribly to pay for my sins. Help me to always show my gratitude in an obedient life where I put Him first.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday: Matthew 26:57-66

Monday: Luke 23:1-16

Tuesday: Matthew 27:1-2

Wednesday: Mark 14:53-65

Thursday: Luke 23:17-34

Friday: Romans 12:1-3

Saturday: Luke 23:35-48

Activity

Jesus Christ lived a perfect life, yet He was arrested, spat on, beaten horribly and died an excruciatingly painful death to provide a way for you to be forgiven of your sins.

1. Answer the question "What do I owe Him?" _____
2. Put a check mark by the things you do daily or weekly to show Jesus what you owe Him.

_____ Pray	_____ Attend Sabbath School
_____ Read my Sabbath School lesson	_____ Keep the Sabbath Holy
_____ Read my Daily Devotionals	_____ Honor my parents
_____ Help someone in need	_____ Tithe on my increase
_____ Sing in Sabbath services	_____ Help set up and clean up at potlucks
3. List four more ways that you can start showing Jesus what you owe Him.
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
4. Read Romans 12:1-3 and list three things in those verses which you can do to put Christ first in your life.
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____

*Many of the Scriptures quoted in this lesson are taken from the Living Bible.

Who Will You Choose?

MEMORY VERSE

“For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” -
Ephesians 2: 8

SCRIPTURES

Joshua 24:15-16

Matthew 26:32-53

Matthew 27:26-61

Mark 15:1-47

Luke 23:1-56

John 18:28-40

John 19:1-:38

Ephesians 2:8

WORDS TO KNOW

SANHEDRIN - the high court of the Jews

CYRENE - an important city in Libya in North Africa

SNEERED - to smile or laugh in a manner that means scorn

EXCRUCIATING - intense suffering; tormented

GRACE - God's unmerited favor and love

THE LESSON

Early in the morning the noisy crowd gathered in Jerusalem to watch the executions. The mob shouted louder and louder, “Crucify him! Crucify him! Crucify him!” They wanted blood. And they wanted it to be the blood of Jesus Christ, an innocent man.

Pilate, the Roman Governor, would have no more of it. So he washed his hands symbolically saying that he was not going to be responsible for Jesus' death. “‘I am innocent of this man's blood,’ he said, ‘It is your responsibility!’”

The mob shouted back, “Let his blood be on us and on our children!” What a chilling response from a bloodthirsty crowd!

It was a Passover season custom to spare a life and let one man go free. The mob chose Barabbas, a common criminal, and he was set free. Pilate sent Jesus to be flogged, and handed him over to the Roman Soldiers to be crucified. Flogging was so brutal that the victim sometimes died before they were crucified.

They stripped Jesus of His clothes and put a scarlet robe on Him. They made a crown from thorns, a prickly plant, and put it on His head. Then they placed a scepter in His hand and bowed down to Him and mocked Him. “Hail, King of the Jews” they yelled. This wasn’t humiliating enough, they thought. So they spat on Him. They took a stick and beat Him on the head.

They still weren’t satisfied. So they removed the robe that was put on Him. They put His own clothes back on Him before heading out to Golgotha which means, The Place of the Skull. On the way they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and forced him to carry the stake on which Jesus was to be crucified. Simon was probably a Jew who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover.

Two other criminals were led out to be crucified with Jesus – one on the right side and the other on the left. The three of them were nailed to their stakes to die. The mob must have looked upon this as a spectator sport. They came to watch, and the religious rulers sneered. The soldiers divided up Jesus’ clothes by casting lots. As Jesus hung on the stake in agony He said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

“He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One” they yelled. ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.’”

Sometime in your life you’ve had someone make fun of you. Was it a maddening experience? But what if you were being executed to pay for the crime they had done. How would you feel? This is what Jesus was doing. The Roman soldiers, the mob, and religious leaders pulled out all stops to make Jesus’ dying the worst. They found every hurtful and humiliating thing they could do to Him. Then they placed a sign above Him. It said “THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

At noon the earth became dark as night. About three o’clock in the afternoon, Jesus shouted “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani,” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Can you think of a more forsaken feeling than having your own father turn his back on you? But Jesus had to experience this. Why? Because our Savior had to suffer the full penalty for our sins – the penalty that you and I deserve.

Someone ran and dipped a sponge in vinegar, put it on a stick and held it up for Jesus to drink. When He tasted it, He wouldn’t drink it. Jesus cried out one more time and died. At that moment the curtain in the Temple split from top to bottom, and an earthquake shook the ground.

How did you feel when the crowd chose Barabbas, a common criminal to be set free instead of Jesus? How did you feel when you read about what the Roman soldiers and the religious leaders did to Jesus, a sinless man? Did it make you angry? Did you ask in your mind, “How dare you do such a thing to a completely innocent Man?”

When Pilot washed his hands, did that make him innocent of Jesus’ death? No, it didn’t. What about you? Just because you weren’t there that day, are you innocent of Jesus’ death? No one who has ever lived is innocent of Jesus’ death.

Jesus lived a perfect life. Yet, He died the most excruciating criminal’s death. Why? He did it because He loves you and me so much. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). All of us have sinned. “The wages of sin is death.” There was only way God could prevent you and me from dying eternal death and never living again. It is by the grace of God. He sacrificed His only Son to shed His blood for our sins. We all deserve the same death that Jesus died. But we don’t have to experience it. God provided a way – a free gift. To receive this gift you must not be like the crowd that chose Barabbas. You must choose Jesus Christ as your Savior, repent of your sins and be baptized. Won’t you accept this free gift of eternal life? Won’t you live a Christian life to show your love for Jesus who paid the supreme sacrifice for you?

STUDENT PRAYER

Almighty God and Father,

I am so humbled by what I have just read. Jesus, my Savior lived a perfect life. He willingly submitted Himself to an excruciating death so that I may live forever. Oh Father, help me to show my appreciation daily in the life I live. I accept Jesus as my Savior. Thank you for this wonderful gift.

I thank you in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday: Matthew 27:26-31

Monday: Mark 15:24-38

Tuesday: Matthew 26:32-37

Wednesday: Matthew 26:38-53

Thursday: John 18:28-40

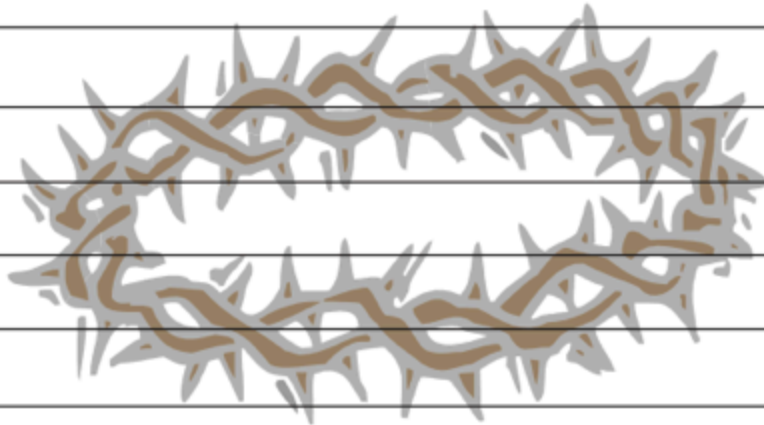
Friday: Joshua 24:15-16

Saturday: John 19:14-24

Activity

On the lines below, write a prayer to God, or a letter to Jesus Christ. In it:

- 1) Tell how you felt when Jesus was arrested on false charge.
- 2) Tell Him how angry you got when they flogged Jesus, pushed the crown of thorns down on His head and mocked Him.
- 3) Tell how you felt when the crowd chose Barabbas to be set free rather than Jesus.
- 4) Let Him know that you realize how much Jesus suffered, and that it was for your sins that He suffered.
- 5) **Ask forgiveness of your sins. If you have done this and are ready to ask Him to be your Savior, talk with your parents, your teacher, or a minister about baptism.**



Missing Friend

MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” - John 11:25-26 (NIV)

SCRIPTURES

Matthew 28:1-20

Luke 24:1-34

John 11:25-26

John 20:1-31

John 21:1-25

1 Corinthians 15:14-22

WORDS TO KNOW

INTERN - Someone, as a student or recent graduate, working as an apprentice or trainee to gain practical experience in an occupation

THE LESSON

A young government intern was having an affair with a well known senator. About the time his wife was coming to town, the intern disappeared. The D.C. police questioned the senator. They searched his apartment for clues to the missing girl. They spent days with dogs going over every inch of nearby parks in search of the missing intern. The girl was never found and the mystery is yet to be solved. How would you feel if your friend was missing and no one could find her?

Jesus was missing too. It was also a mystery His disciples and friends wanted to solve. After Jesus had died and while He was still hanging on the stake, a Roman soldier broke the legs of the two criminals hanging on either side of Jesus to ensure they died quickly. Since Jesus was already dead, the soldier pierced His side with a spear, and blood and water flowed out. This fulfilled a prophecy that said “‘Not one of his bones shall be broken,’ and ‘They shall look on him whom they pierced.’”

A rich man, Joseph of Arimathea, had been a secret disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked permission to take Jesus’ body down off the stake and bury it in his new tomb that was nearby. The First Day of Un-leavened Bread was fast approaching, so Joseph and Nicodemus

rushed to wrap Jesus' body in a long linen cloth that was saturated with spices. This was a Jewish custom.

The chief priests and pharisees went to Pilate and told him, "Sir, that liar once said, 'After three days I will come back to life again.' So we request an order from you sealing the tomb until the third day, to prevent his disciples from coming and stealing his body and then telling everyone he came back to life! If that happens we'll be worse off than we were at first." (Matthew 27:62b-64 TLB). So they sealed the tomb with a stone and used the Temple police to guard it to make sure nothing happened.

Very early Sunday morning Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to Jesus' tomb. Suddenly there was an earthquake! What caused it? An angel of God came down from heaven and rolled the stone sealing Jesus' tomb away. Then he sat down on the stone. This was such a frightening experience the Temple police guard fainted out of sheer fear.

When Mary Magdalene and the other women arrived at the tomb, they were expecting to see Jesus' body. For they had come with spices to anoint it. But their Friend's body was missing. They didn't find Jesus there. They too were so badly frightened that they ran from the tomb when the angel told them that Jesus was missing, He had come back to life. The angel told them to quickly go and tell the disciples the good news about Jesus' resurrection.

They headed down the road to find the disciples. Guess what happened next? Jesus was suddenly in front of them and said "Good morning!" The women fell to the ground and worshiped Him.

Jesus told them to tell the disciples to meet Him in Galilee. In the meantime, the Temple police rushed to the chief priests and told them that Jesus was missing – He was alive! They quickly called a meeting of the Jewish leaders. It was decided to bribe the Temple "police to say they were asleep when Jesus' disciples came during the night and stole his body." The police took the bribe and did as they were told. This story spread all over the place and it's even believed to this very day.

What do we need to learn from this lesson? Why was Jesus resurrected? And what does His resurrection mean to you?.

"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. . . But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:14, 20- 22 NIV). If we do not live until Christ returns, our only hope of living again is in the resurrection of the dead. Christ had to be resurrected first or we would have no hope of being resurrected. It is through His resurrection that we have hope of eternal life.

The Bible tells us that there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. The Roman soldier pierced Jesus' side and His blood was shed for your sins. If you will accept the sacrifice Jesus made by giving His blood for you, you have forgiveness of your sins. But the death of Jesus alone cannot save you. It is through Jesus' life that we are saved – His resurrection to life! Praise God, He Lives!

STUDENT PRAYER

Almighty God and Father,
Thank you for raising Jesus Christ from the dead. It is through His shed blood that I have forgiveness of my sins and through His life that makes it possible for me to live forever! Help me to always live my life to reflect my appreciation for this awesome event.
In the name of my living Savior I ask these things.
Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday: Matthew 28:1-10

Monday: Luke 24:1-12

Tuesday: Luke 24:13-26

Wednesday: John 20:26-31

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 15:14-22

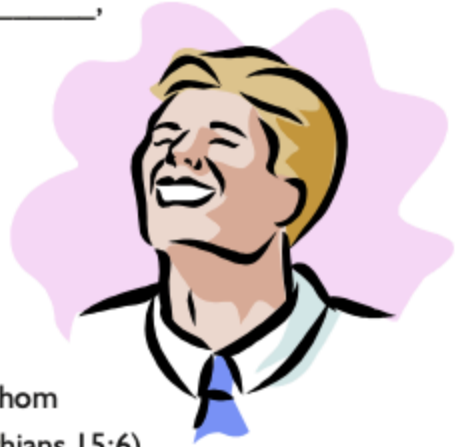
Friday: John 11:25

Saturday: Matthew 28:11-20

Activity

There is no doubt that Jesus was crucified, and was raised from the dead. Many people saw Him alive after His resurrection. Look up each Scripture and fill in the blank of the missing person or persons to whom Jesus appeared after His resurrection.

1. "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to _____
(Luke 24:34).
2. "On the evening of that first day of the week, when the _____
were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among
them and said, Peace be with you!" (John 20:19)
3. "Now _____ (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the
_____ when Jesus came. So the other _____
told him, 'We have seen the Lord!'" (John 20: 24).
4. "Afterward Jesus appeared again to his _____,
by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way:
_____ (called Didymus),
_____ from Cana in Galilee,
_____, and _____
were together" (John 21:1-2).
5. "After that, he appeared to more than _____
of the _____ at the same time, most of whom
are still living, though some have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:6).
6. "Then he appeared to _____, then to all the _____, and
last of all he appeared to _____, as to one abnormally born"
(1 Corinthians 15:7).



He Changed the World

MEMORY VERSE

“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” - John 14:12 (NIV)

SCRIPTURES

Mark 16:9-20

Luke 24:44-53

John 14:12

John 16:7-8

John 18:36

Acts 1:6-11

Hebrews 7:24-25

WORDS TO KNOW

PRIMARY - an election to select the presidential candidate

EULOGIZED - to praise or extol

MALADIES - a disorder or disease of the body

THE LESSON

In 1968 Robert Kennedy won the California primary for the Democratic presidential nomination. He was a handsome young man with a lovely wife and many children. Life could have not looked more promising. But this was short lived. On his way to his hotel room disaster struck and he was shot dead! His brother, Senator Edward Kennedy eulogized his slain brother at his funeral. “As he said many times, in many parts of this nation, to those he touched and who sought to touch him; some men see things as they are and say, ‘Why?’ I dream things that never were and say, ‘Why not?’” Had Robert Kennedy lived, he may have changed the world.

Surely Jesus, even more than Robert Kennedy, dreamed things that never were and said “Why not?” He was born of a young virgin, and lived a perfect life. He grew in wisdom and in favor of men. He healed the sick, cast out demons, raised people from the dead. And He was constantly teaching the way of God. He gave Himself as a sacrifice so that all mankind might come to the knowledge of God and be saved. He changed the world from then through eternity.

As a teenager, one of the last things you may want to hear is that you've gotta work. And it may really sound dumb to say work is a source of happiness. But if you want to change the world, you will have to work. "The most unhappy of all men is the man who cannot tell what he is going to do, who has got no work cut out for him. . . . For work is the grandest cure of all the maladies and miseries that ever beset mankind" (Thomas Carlyle, Rector of the University of Edinburgh.) After 33 years of hard, productive work, Jesus finished the work He was sent here to do. And He changed the world forever.

"It was early on Sunday morning when Jesus came back to life, and the first person who saw him was Mary Magdalene – the woman from whom he had cast out seven demons. She found the disciples wet-eyed with grief and exclaimed that she had seen Jesus, and he was alive! But they didn't believe her!

"Later that day he appeared to two who were walking from Jerusalem into the country, but they didn't recognize him at first because he had changed his appearance. When they finally realized who he was, they rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the others, but no one believed them.

"Still later he appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating together. He rebuked them for their unbelief – their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him alive from the dead.

"And then he told them, 'You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere. Those who believe and are baptized will be saved. But those who refuse to believe will be condemned.

"And those who believe shall use my authority to cast out demons, and they shall speak new languages. They will be able even to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them; and they will be able to place their hands on the sick and heal them.'

"When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down at God's right hand" (Mark 16:9-20 TLB).

The Apostles watched with strained eyes trying to get the last glimpse of Jesus as this awesome event took place. While they watched two angels appeared to them and said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has gone away to heaven, and someday, just as he went, he will return!"

Jesus hasn't stopped working now that He is in heaven. What is He doing? Jesus told His disciples in John 16:7, 8 "But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment" (NIV). The "Counselor" Jesus is speaking of is the Holy Spirit.

“... Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them” (Hebrews 7:24-25). Day and night Jesus is there to go to the throne of God and make intercession for you. He pleads your cause to the Father when you pray. You were born to win! Jesus will do everything in His power to ensure that you do. He has sent His Spirit to help you.

Salvation is by the grace of God. But that doesn't mean you can sit on your duff and never do anything. Jesus had to do the work of His Father when He was on earth. That work was never easy. But His rewards are wonderful! We are no better than Jesus. We must also do the work of our Father. That work requires our wholehearted belief in Jesus Christ. It requires a changed life. It requires enduring to the end and never giving up. Remember, Jesus sits at the right hand of His Father always willing to help you. But you must ask.

You too can change your world. And like Jesus, your rewards will be wonderful. Now go do it!

STUDENT PRAYER

Great God and Father,

You have called me to make a difference in the world I live in. I was born to win! Help me to do my part in changing the world.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday: Mark 16:9-11

Monday: Luke 24:44-53

Tuesday: Acts 1:6-11

Wednesday: John 16:7-8

Thursday: Hebrews 7:24-25

Friday: Mark 16:12-20

Saturday: John 18:36

A cartoon illustration of a person with dark skin, wearing a grey t-shirt and light-colored pants, holding a large, stylized globe of the Earth above their head with both hands. The globe is light blue with green continents. The person is standing on a small grey shadow. The background is white with horizontal lines.