

5th Grade

Unit 4: Jesus the Son

Truth 31: Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead.

INTRODUCTIONS/ WEEKLY TRUTH:

- **Booklet:** Write today's truth: "Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead."

MEMORY WORK: Lead the group in a discussion about why memorization is important when it comes to scripture and other important works of faith. See if they remember the following points:

- **Booklet:** Have kids write the unit Bible verse: John 3:16 ~ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
- **Game:** Reinforce the verse for today by using one of the activities in the Memory Verse Activity Box.

BIBLE TRIVIA

- **Booklet:** Have kids fill in the blanks for the following Bible trivia and then go over the answers as a class.

29. God spoke to Moses in a burning bush and said to go tell Pharaoh to set God's people free.

30. God parted the Red Sea allowing Moses to lead the Jews out of Egypt.

31. Moses and the Jews wandered for 40 years in the desert before entering the Promised Land.

32. Joshua won the battle at Jericho by marching around the city, yelling, and blowing horns.

- **Game:** Reinforce today's trivia by doing an activity from the Trivia list. Add in any previously learned trivia from the list in your leader's guide.

APOSTLE'S CREED: Before reciting the Apostles' Creed together, have them find the part of the creed that says, "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead."

DISCUSSION:

Read Matthew 24:29-31 & 36-39.

What words and descriptors do these verses use to describe the Second Coming? (Consider writing answers on the white board: The sun will be darkened; the moon will not give its light; stars will fall from heaven; powers of the heavens will be shaken; all the tribes of earth will mourn; Jesus will come on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory; he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his people.)

Do we have an idea of when Jesus will return again? (No; not even Jesus himself knows. Only the Father knows. As with Noah and the flood, most people will not expect it and will be caught unaware.)

If we don't know when Jesus will return, how should we act in the meantime? (We should "be on guard" and "stay awake." In other words, we should always maintain a sense of urgency and importance with regard to our relationship with Jesus; he could return at any time and when we're least expecting it.)

Read Matthew 25:31-46.

This is known as the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats. A parable is a short, simple story Jesus used to teach spiritual truths. In this parable, who are the sheep and who are the goats? (The sheep are those on the King's right; they inherit God's blessing and the kingdom of God. The goats are those on the King's left; they are cursed to depart from him into the eternal fire. It is eternal life versus eternal punishment.)

Who will judge and separate people into either eternal life or eternal punishment (verse 23)? (Jesus)

Do these verses seem to suggest that those who do good works will be saved and those who don't will receive eternal punishment? (It may seem like this at first, but we know that the Bible doesn't contradict itself. The Bible repeatedly emphasizes that we are saved by faith, not works: Ephesians 2:8-9.)

If we are saved by faith, and faith is a gift, then why does it seem like Jesus will judge people by their works? (The good works mentioned in the parable are not the cause of salvation but the effect of salvation. True Christians can't help but become like Christ. Good works in a Christian's life are present because of the relationship that exists between the saved and their Savior. The works are evidence that this relationship exists.)

Extended Discussion: Read **Psalm 96:12b-13**.

This Psalm says that even the trees will sing for joy when the Lord comes to judge the earth. Have the kids choose between drawing a picture of the trees singing for joy when Jesus comes down from heaven to judge the earth or a picture of the Parable of the Sheep and Goats. Be sure to remind the kids to keep their picture church appropriate, and share with the group when they are done.

Summary: We live in the period of time between Jesus's first coming and Jesus's second coming. We don't know when he will return, but it's certainly possible that it could be in our lifetime. John 14:1-4 says, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." Let's pray for belief in Jesus, that he may be preparing a place for us in heaven, and that when he returns, he will take us to himself.

PRAYER: Ask kids if they have any prayer requests. Lead the kids in reciting the **Lord's Prayer** together, then pray as you feel led.

SNACK AND COMMUNITY TIME: Pass out snacks and water if needed. Spend the rest of the time in fellowship or consider doing a communal game from the list if kids are getting antsy and need more structure.

- **Memory Challenges:** Allow any kids who want to attempt one of the memory challenges to do so.