

# WEEK 3

## GOD RESTORES CREATION

JESUS IS COMING SOON

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

### THE FOUR KEYS . . .

## KEY VERSE

Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Matthew 24:44

## KEY IDEAS

1. Jesus is coming for His bride.
2. We must be ready.
3. We must tell others.

## KEY PASSAGE

Revelation 22:6-13, 2 Corinthians 4:1-7

## KEY PRINCIPLES



### EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

that Jesus is coming back at a time we cannot know and He has given us a mission.



### EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

glad that we have a hope beyond this earth and God wants everyone to trust in Him and be a part of it.



### EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

eagerly anticipate the return of Christ by living each day with purpose.



### EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to tell everyone they meet about the love of Jesus and eternal hope that is found in Him.

# INTRODUCTION

God does not leave us in a broken world, but He is in the process of repairing all that is broken through Jesus. God had a plan even before the world began because He knew that man would rebel against him, and He made a promise to restore all things for those who love Him. God kept that promise by sending Jesus to save us from our sins, and He has also promised that one day He will restore all of creation, too. Until Jesus returns, God has given us a mission to go and make disciples. Every follower of Jesus is a disciple. We accomplish God's mission by living lives that glorify Him and sharing the gospel with others we meet. God desires that every person would know and love Him genuinely. Jesus is coming back soon!

## OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class by bringing in a clay jar. Ask the kids to make some observations about it. What is it made of? Does the jar seem sturdy or is it more fragile? Does it look expensive? What do you think people in the first century would've used these for? Explain that clay jars were used commonly in first century homes. They were cheap and not very durable and they were useless if they got broken. They wouldn't normally put something of great value, like fine oils and perfumes in such a fragile container. It would be like us putting our best bouquet of flowers in a dirty milk jug instead of a pretty vase. But the Bible says that God has put his treasure in earthen, clay vessels. (2 Cor. 4:7) What does that mean? What is His treasure? The gospel is the treasure and we are the earthen vessels. God has given believers the magnificent treasure of the gospel to carry into all the world, sharing His message and love for people so that they might be saved. Why do you think He does that? The Bible says that in our weakness, His strength is made perfect. God's power is revealed through our weaknesses! It is only His power that can transform lives, not our abilities or inabilities. When we share all that God has done in our lives with others, His glory is on display, and others can see Him working through us!

## KEY IDEAS

Read Rev. 22:6-13 and 2 Corinthians 4:1-7. Then use the following points for guided discussion.

- Jesus is coming for His bride.
  - Who is the bride of Christ? The Church, meaning all who have trusted in Jesus, is also called the bride of Christ in the bible. (Isaiah 54:5-6, Eph. 5:25-33)
  - Why does Jesus describe us like a bride? We think of a bride in terms of a wedding and a marriage between a husband and a wife, but God originally gave marriage to us as a symbol of how much He loves His people. God has sacrificed everything for us and He lovingly waits for us, his bride, to come to Him, and in turn we respond by lovingly submitting to Him and trusting Him with our lives. (2 Peter 3:9)
- We must be ready.
  - What does it mean to be ready for Jesus's return? What should we be doing? We stand ready when we are living our lives for His glory and not our own and actively taking part in God's mission to share the gospel with others. We can think of it as this: if Jesus were to return tomorrow, how many people could we share His message with so that they could be saved, too? (1 Thess. 5:6, 1 Peter 4:7, Colossians 4:2, Rev. 3:3)
- We must tell others.
  - Why should we tell others about Jesus? First, because God has told us to! Even more, God is love and we experience love when we are welcomed into His presence as sons and daughters. This can only happen through Jesus who paid our sin debt. We should tell others about Jesus because He loves them and because we care for them, too. We love because He first loved us. (Psalm 107:2, Matt. 28:19-20, 1 John 4:19)
  - How do we share the gospel? We share the gospel by telling others about what He has done for us. We were one way, as sinners, and then Christ died in our place, taking on our punishment, and by believing in Him and repenting of our sin, we can have joy and peace in His presence forever, free from the grip of sin and death. (1 Thess. 2:8)

## Activity

Have the kids practice sharing the gospel. Explain to them that you will pretend to be a person who has not trusted in Jesus and they must share the gospel with you, telling you all about what Jesus has done for them personally and how he loves us. You can make the activity more challenging by asking questions and presenting ideas that challenge their message. Explain that sometimes it can be hard to share the gospel because we are afraid of what someone else might think or say to us. It's also important to remember that not everyone is going to believe in God, but that should never stop us from telling them the truth. Remind them that God is pleased by our obedience to share His message, no matter how the person responds. We don't always get to see that person give their life to Jesus, but we can be sure that God will use our faithfulness for His purpose, and He is working even when we can't see.

## Prayer

Thank God that He doesn't leave us in a broken world and that Jesus is coming back soon. Ask God to help you stand ready by joining in His mission and sharing His love with others.

# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

## ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse Matthew 24:44.

Take time this week talking with your child about how we can share the gospel in practical ways where we live, work, and play. Look for opportunities this week to be extra intentional in sharing the gospel as an example to your child. Talk about how God measures our obedience to share, not our ability or inability to win someone over. That's His job, and often times God is working in someone's heart in ways we cannot see. Use the discussion questions below to help guide your conversation

## DISCUSSION

- Who is someone in your life that needs to hear about Jesus?
- How should we share the gospel?  
We share the gospel by telling others about what He has done for us. We were one way, as sinners, and then Christ died in our place, taking on our punishment, and by believing in Him and repenting of our sin, we can have joy and peace in His presence forever, free from the grip of sin and death.
- Can you think of a time when you tried to share the gospel with someone? How did it go?
- What should we do or how should we feel when someone rejects the gospel?  
We should remember that not everyone will believe and some may take a long time to believe, but each time we share, we should do so bold and confidently, without shame, because we know that God's Word is true and does not ever return void. This means that God will use our faithful obedience to share even when we cannot immediately see the effects of it. It's important to remember that when someone rejects the gospel, they are not rejecting us personally; rather, they are rejecting God. We should continue to have compassion and pray for that person to be saved. (Rom. 1:16)

## PRAYER

Thank God that He has given us every reason to have joy, hope, and peace in Jesus and that He does not leave us in a broken world forever. Thank God that His plan is good and that He is coming back soon. Ask God to help you share the gospel boldly with those you meet.