

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=  
Lesson 22  
The Second Coming of Christ

Scripture: Matthew 24:1, 30-51; I Corinthians 15:51-58; II Corinthians 5:1-8; I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Objects to have:

Pictures of the following:

- Somebody who is hurt
- Somebody who is sleeping
- Somebody who is sick
- Somebody who is opening a door or standing beside one, or simply a door
- Somebody who is standing
- Somebody who is eating

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Hold your pictures in preparation for showing them to the class whenever it is appropriate.) Jesus was talking with His disciples. Jesus' disciples were men. These men traveled around their country with Jesus. They helped Him. They loved Him. They listened to Him and learned from Him. Jesus had many long talks with them while He was on earth. There were many things that the disciples did not know, and Jesus wanted them to know all of them. Jesus knows everything. He wants you and me to know about these things, too, so men were told what things to write down to make the Bible. Listen; there are some things Jesus wants us to know, too.

Telling the story:

Jesus said, "I want you to be ready and watching for a very special day that is coming. Before the special day comes, I will be taken from you." How would Jesus be taken away from His disciples? He was crucified by wicked people, and His body became very still. The living part of Jesus left His body. Jesus let Himself die. A good friend of Jesus took Jesus' body off the cross and put that body into a tomb. But, Jesus did not stay dead! His body became alive again; the living part of Jesus went back into His body. When the living part of Jesus went back into His body, His body was changed. Let me tell you how His body was changed.

(Show the picture of someone who is hurt.) This picture shows someone in pain; something hurts this person. After Jesus arose from the dead, His body would not hurt any more. (Hold up the picture of the sleeping person.) This picture shows someone sleeping. After Jesus arose from the dead, His body did not get tired any more; He did not need to sleep. Jesus in His resurrected body did not need night any longer; the night was made so that people could sleep. (Hold up the picture of the sick person.) This picture shows someone who is sick. Jesus' new body did not get weak any more. (Hold up the picture of the person who is eating.) This picture shows someone eating some food. Jesus in His new body ate food. (Hold up the picture of someone who could be opening a door.) This picture shows someone opening a door. Jesus in His new body walked right through doors. (Hold up the picture of someone who is standing.) This picture shows someone standing on the earth. In His new resurrected body, Jesus did not have to stay on the earth from then on. Jesus, in His new body, was able to rise up from the earth and to go into Heaven.

We know that Jesus did die and that He arose from the dead and that He went to Heaven again. Jesus told His disciples about a special day, but that special day has not come yet. Jesus wanted His disciples to watch for this special day, and He wanted all of His friends to watch for the special day. In the Bible we are told about the special day that Jesus told His disciples of.

This is what is going to happen on that special day. (Point to 1/3 of your class.) We'll pretend that it is nighttime where you children are living. You are sleeping. Some people are going to be sleeping on that special day. (Point to the second 1/3 of your class.) At the same time that these people are going to be sleeping, there will be some people eating breakfast. (Point to the last 1/3 of the class.) You are working at jobs at the time that these people are eating and these people are sleeping.

(Tell the following with great excitement, but slowly enough for the children to comprehend the details.) Suddenly, there is going to be a loud shout. The archangel will shout. The Lord will speak. God's trumpet will blow. Jesus will come down out of Heaven. Jesus will not come clear to the earth. He will stop in the sky and stay in the clouds.

At this very same time, some people who have died will come to life again. Some will come up out of the graves; bodies will come up out of the sea; some bodies that are scattered in many different places will come up out of their burying places. I said that only some of the people who had died will come to life again. It will be only the bodies of Christians that will come to life again. The bodies of people who did not trust in Jesus will not come alive at this time. They will come alive at a later time.

The living part of the dead people who love Jesus will come from Heaven to go back into their bodies. Then their living bodies will start to rise from the earth. (Demonstrate with your arms, raising yourself up on tiptoe.) At the same time that these people go up, some other people will be going up, too. "Those people who love Jesus will stop their working, playing, sleeping, eating. These Christians who will be alive when Jesus comes to the clouds will start going up from the earth, too. Together all of these people will go to the clouds of the air and meet Jesus there!

Before they get to Jesus, something marvelous will have happened to their bodies. At the very second that Jesus comes from Heaven, their bodies will change. Their bodies will be changed to be like Jesus' body. What could Jesus' resurrected body do? It could eat. It could walk through doors without opening them. His new body did not have any blood in it, but it did have bones and flesh and skin. Feel the bones in your fingers. That covering over your bones is called skin; that padding between the skin and the bones is called flesh. When Jesus comes from Heaven, the bodies of the people who love Him will have bones and flesh and skin.

Did you know that there are going to be some people left behind when we who love Jesus are caught up to meet Him in the clouds? Yes, I'm sorry to say that there will be. There will be people still on earth eating their meals, working at their jobs, sleeping in their beds, playing their games. Who are these people who won't get to rise to meet Jesus in the air? These are the people who would not ask Him to be their Saviour.

I don't want to be left behind when Jesus comes from Heaven to gather up His people to meet Him in the air. I'm sure you don't, either. All people who want to rise from the dead or from the earth when Jesus comes again should know Jesus as their Saviour. How does one get to know Jesus as Saviour? They just tell Jesus that they know they are sinners. They tell Jesus that they are sorry that they are sinners.

Ask Jesus to be your Saviour. Tell Him that you want to be with Him forever and forever.

We can be with Jesus forever and forever. How wonderful it will be! I just want to look at Him, don't you? Then after I have looked at Him for a while, I want to hear Him talk to me. I want to hear Him tell the Bible stories. Jesus would be the best Bible story teller there is! Then I want to see if there are any jobs that Jesus has for me to do. I want to do whatever He wants me to do.

When is this special day going to come? Jesus said that we're not supposed to know. We're just supposed to be watching for it. Each morning we could say, "Jesus may come for us today." He may, too. We're supposed to watch for His coming.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: I Thessalonians 4:16a, "*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout.*"