

THE LAST CALL

Jesus Will Return
Matthew 25:31–46;
Revelation 22:6–21
AD 95

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus will come again.

BIBLE VERSE

[He] will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body. Philippians 3:21

LEARNER GOAL

I know it will be a wonderful day when Jesus comes back again.

LAW & GOSPEL

In sin, I trust my own works to save me. **Christ reveals His second coming and assures me of His work in salvation.**

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Jesus describes His second coming, when the Father will separate believers and unbelievers. He tells how the faithful, by faith, fulfill God's will, and how the unfaithful will find themselves banished to eternal punishment. John records the words of the risen and glorified Christ in the last chapter of his revelation. There, Christ promises once again to return and gather all believers to Himself: "Surely I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:20).

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read the Bible text and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read The Third Article (Part 3) in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (CPH, 2017).

IN DEPTH Read Matthew 10 in *The Lutheran Study Bible* with study notes and the articles on page 2237.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Paper, markers & crayons, especially yellow, silver & gold
- Play dough, rolling pins, toy dishes, candles or other items used for special occasions
- Celebration items such as blowout party favors, birthday napkin or card, & candles; stuffed animals; a wrapped gift & ornament; ride tokens or Mickey Mouse ears
- Scarves or colorful strips of crepe paper
- Cupcakes & sprinkles or angel food cake
- Paper plates, ribbon, silk flowers or tissues, yarn & pipe cleaners

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- Supplies for bonus activities
- cph.org/digitalcontent



LEADER NOTE

Greet each child and show the children where to put their offerings. Direct them to an activity that will connect what they know to what they will learn. If class time is short, omit these and start with Jesus Time.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Use “Buddy Talk” as an alternate introduction.



LEADER NOTE

Show your Bible and remind the children that the story comes from God’s Word, the Bible.

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

EXPRESSIVE Set out paper, markers, and yellow, silver, and gold crayons. Say, **Today we will talk about the happy day Jesus comes back to earth and gives us a home with Him in the new heavens and earth. Can you draw a happy picture about this? What will it look like? We know it will be a happy place because we’ll be with Jesus.** Have the children tell you about their pictures.

PLAY DOUGH Set out play dough, rolling pins, toy dishes, candles, and the like. Talk about birthdays or other special occasions. Have the children make cupcakes and other party food. Say, **It is fun to celebrate our birthdays and other special times. Sometimes it’s hard to wait for them! Today we’ll talk about the best day ever. It’s the day Jesus comes back to make a forever home for us.**

JESUS TIME

SING “Jesus, You Are Always Near” (digital resource center) or “Jesus Loves Me This I Know” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 42)

SAY **Hi, boys and girls. Where is Jesus? What does He promise us?** Emphasize that Jesus is with us always. Because of the forgiveness He gives us through His death and resurrection, we are sinless in God’s sight. He opens heaven’s gates for us.

PRAY **Dear Jesus,* we’re glad You took our sins away.* Thank You* for Your promise* to make a new heaven and earth* for us to live in with You.* Help us learn more* about the day *You will come back again.* Amen.***

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Gather items that represent happy days most children enjoy; for example, a blowout party favors, birthday napkin or card, and candles (birthday), stuffed animals (zoo), a wrapped gift and ornament (Christmas), ride tokens or Mickey Mouse ears (Disney World or an amusement park).

Tell the children you want them to think about the very best day of their lives. Show the items and talk about them. Say, **Maybe the best day of your life is your birthday. What made it fun and special? Whose best day was going to the zoo or an amusement park? What did you do that made it so great?** Let the children tell about their “best” days. **How do we feel when we are going to do something special?** Accept answers. **There are lots of good days that we look forward to, aren’t there?** Share some of your happy days too. **But do you know what? The very best day of my life hasn’t happened yet! But today I will tell you about it. I can do that because Jesus has told us what it will be like. It’s the day He will come back again.**

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Say, **Jesus will return someday! No one know when that day will be. It might come when we are alive. It might come after we die. But no matter, when it happens, Jesus says He will change our bodies so they will never die again. We will live with Him always. Say verse: [He] will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body (Philippians 3:21).**

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with each child, or put the page into a purchased binder. Hand out the second page, stickers, and crayons.

SIDE 1 Finish coloring the picture. Talk about how it will be a happy day of celebration for God’s children when Jesus comes back again.

SIDE 2 Say, **We don’t know when Jesus will come back again. But we do know that He wants us to show love for others and tell them about Him. Jesus tells us in the Bible, “Whenever you do loving things for those who need My love, You do them for Me.” These children know Jesus loves them. How are they showing love for others?** Talk about the pictures and what the children are doing to show love. Give the children a Jesus sticker to put by the people who are being helped to show that when we show love for others, we are loving Jesus too.

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Take time to reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active-learning options. Turn to “Active Learning” on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

□ MOVE

Reinforce happiness and looking forward to Jesus’ return through movement.

□ SNACK

Serve birthday cupcakes or angel food cake. Provide options that are allergy-free for any children who need those.

□ CREATE

Make baskets of flowers. Talk about loving actions shown on the stickers and suggest they could give their basket to someone to cheer the person up.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Create an atmosphere of excitement, not fear, so the children will look forward to Jesus’ return. Ask, **What is your favorite part of the story?** Listen for their answers and help them to grow in confidence that Jesus loves them, forgives them, and is with them always. Ask, **When you show love for others, who else are you showing love for?**

LEAVE

SING “He’s Coming” (digital resource center) or “I’m with You” (Little Ones Sing Praise, p. 32)

Give the children scarves or crepe-paper streamers to wave as they sing and celebrate.

SAY **It will be a wonderful day when Jesus comes back again! He promises to make everyone who has died alive again. He will tell those who believe in Him, “Come to the wonderful place I’ve made for you where there won’t be sin or troubles anymore. There will be only happiness and joy.”**

Until then, (*show people on plate*) **Jesus tells us that when we say and do loving actions for others, we are showing love for Jesus** (*show Jesus on plate*).

PRAY **Dear Jesus, thank You for being with us always. Thank You for loving and forgiving us. Thank You for making a home in the new heavens and earth where we will live with You and all those who love You forever. Amen.**



CHRIST CONNECTION

Christ has won victory over death by the cross and will return to raise the dead and make all things new for His people.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Use the “Finger Play, Part 1” to reinforce that Jesus gives those who believe in Him life with Him forever.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Use “Finger Play, Part 2” to help the children understand that whenever we say and do loving actions for someone else, we do them for Jesus.



LEADER NOTE

For “Leave” today, prepare two whole paper plates, using the Create stickers (if you have your own set or an extra set). Put the helping stickers on the front plate and the sticker of Jesus on the second one. Hold up the two paper plates, with the Jesus plate behind the other. *Option:* Use a child’s flower basket (see Create) and point to the people and Jesus on it.

ACTIVE LEARNING

□ MOVE

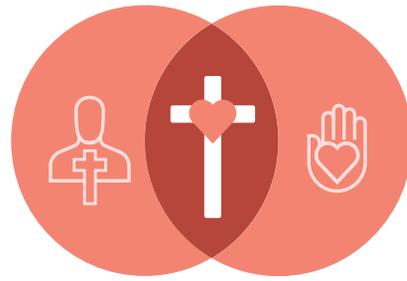
Give the children scarves or strips of colorful crepe paper. Play “He’s Coming” (digital resource center) or search online for hymns and songs about heaven to play for the children (e.g., “Heaven Is a Wonderful Place” by O. A. Lambert—the hymn, not the secular song; “I Can Only Imagine” by MercyMe), and have the children dance or move to music. Talk about the happy day when Jesus returns and how we can look forward to living with Him forever in the new heavens and earth.

□ SNACK

Serve festive foods such as cupcakes with sprinkles. Talk about how we often celebrate birthdays with cake or cupcakes. They are happy, fun times we look forward to. We can look forward to the day Jesus comes back too. Discuss how we will live with Him forever. *Option:* Serve bite-size pieces of angel food cake. Say, **Our cake can remind us that someday Jesus will come from heaven with His angels.**

□ CREATE

Give each child 1½ paper plates. Tape the half plate to the front of the other plate. Decorate. Add a sticker of Jesus to the top half of full plate. Add stickers of hearts and children helping to the half circle. Punch a hole at the top and thread with ribbon for the hanger. Make flowers by stacking two tissues. Accordion-fold and tie in the middle. Pull out the tissue layers. Attach pipe cleaner stems. Put flowers in the half circle. Say, **You can give your flower basket to your mom or someone else to show love. When you show love to others, you are showing love to Jesus.** *Option:* Use silk flowers.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

Christ promises to return one day to take me to be with Him forever.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can share Christ’s promise as I wait faithfully for His return.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can connect Scripture texts about Jesus’ return to my identity and daily calling as His redeemed child today.

YOUTH

I can describe from the text what it means for me that Jesus will come again.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that Jesus will come again.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know it will be a wonderful day when Jesus comes back again.

★ BONUS ACTIVITIES

BUDDY TALK

10 minutes

Have Buddy talk about his grandparents visiting for his birthday and all the fun he had. But then they had to go home again. He misses them! But before they left, they told him, “We love you, Buddy. We’ll come back and see you again!” He says, “You know what? When they come back, they are going to take me to Disney World! That will be the best day ever!” Tell him that sounds like lots of fun. But the Bible tells us about a day that will be even better than this, the day Jesus comes back to earth. Buddy wants to know more.

FINGER PLAY, PART 1

5 minutes

Hold up the correct number of fingers for each line. Have the children copy you. Say, **Five little children in the neighborhood. The first one said, “I’m glad I’m going to heaven.” The second one said, “How do you know?” The third one said, “Jesus loves and forgives me so!” The fourth one said, “He took my sins away.” The fifth one said, “Let’s clap and shout hooray!” Then off went the children to sing and praise God.** Sing “Praise Him, Praise Him” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 68).

FINGER PLAY, PART 2

10 minutes

The five little children wanted to show God’s love. The first one gave a drink to baby Rosalie. The second one make a card for sick Henry. The third one gave clothes to not one but five! The fourth one brought cans of soup for the food drive. The fifth one waved to Grandpa Joe. He waved back and shouted, “Ready, set, go!” Then back to their homes the children did run. They liked to share God’s love with everyone. Talk about how doing kind things for others is doing them for Jesus.