

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 understand that Jesus will come 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 **Matthew 25:31–46**; **Revelation 22:6–21**; and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible (TLSB)*.

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

IN DEPTH In *TLSB*, read **Matthew 24** with study notes and the articles "Christ in Revelation" and "Jesus' Human Nature" on page 2237.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

White drawing paper or copy paper

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Device with downloaded music
- Pens or pencils
- Student copies of *Explore Bible Guidebook*
- Bible
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Supplies for bonus activities
- cph.org/digitalcontent



LEADER NOTE

As students arrive, have them draw pictures of what they think the future will look like when they are your age.



GUIDEBOOKS

Hand out student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* and turn to Lesson 14.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Check the back page for the “Sheep and Goats Game” for an active way to extend the learning.

LAUNCH

PRAY Dear Lord Jesus, You are our Savior, and we love You. We are so happy that You come near to us in Your Word. Guide our time together to learn more about You. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

SING “For God So Loved the World”
“God’s Word for Everyone”
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

SAY Can you tell the future? Can anyone? No, of course not. If you could tell the future, what would you want to know? What do you think the world will be like in the future? (Talk about how the world has changed in unexpected ways since you were their age. Then have them share the pictures they were drawing as they arrived.) Actually, there is someone who knows the future: Jesus. Scripture tells us that Jesus will come back again one day and make all of our broken creation new again. It’s pretty fantastic to think of a future where we will be with Jesus in a new and perfect creation!

LEARN

READ “THE LAST CALL”

Use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* to read the Bible narrative aloud to your students.

DO SOMETHING

FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS After reading the narrative and stopping to talk about any confusing sections as you go along, have students take the picture they drew as class was beginning and turn it over to draw a picture of the future when Jesus returns, as described in Scripture, and what they think it will look like to be with Jesus for eternity.

FOR OLDER LEARNERS After you have read the simpler version in the student book, if you have mostly older students, read aloud the Matthew passage directly from your Bible. Talk about the ways we serve Jesus by serving others. Remind students, however, that we do not work our way to heaven. Our good works are a result of being saved by Jesus.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- John wrote five or six decades after Matthew, and yet their messages are the same.
- We do not fear Judgment Day, because Jesus died for us and all believers. We are His. We can say with confidence, “Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!”
- Since it’s been a long time since Jesus walked the earth, it’s easy to feel like He’s not really coming all that soon. And since our lives are often pretty good, we can also find ourselves saying, “Don’t come just yet, Jesus.” Ultimately, all that thinking is because we look at God’s Word through our sinful nature. The Holy Spirit helps us see the joy of knowing that Jesus will return and make all things new, beyond our wildest imaginings.
- Jesus commanded us to go to “all the nations” to spread the Gospel, and so, too, Jesus will gather believers from all nations to be with Him in heaven. The Gospel has and always will be for *all* people. Yet, this Scripture also reminds us that those who reject the message of Jesus have rejected Him. We must be vigilant about sharing the Gospel with all people.

LIVE

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT

Before you start the discussion questions, use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for further details about the Last Day, found on the second page of Lesson 14.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose from the following questions. For a few helps, encourage students to look in the *Explore Bible Guidebook*.

- ▶ **If Jesus were standing in this room, we would surely be loving and kind to Him. That seems easy, but Scripture tells us that when we are being loving and kind to others, we are being loving and kind to Jesus. How can we serve Jesus by serving others?** (Talk about specific ways in the daily lives of your students as well as in a broader sense in your congregation or community.)
- ▶ **We don't have to be afraid of the Last Day, because Jesus died for us and has given us the gift of faith. We are His sheep! He is our Shepherd! How can we show everyone around us that we are His sheep?**

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE TOGETHER

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

KEY DISCUSSION POINT

- These bodies of ours are only temporary. They will be made new and perfect when Jesus returns and restores the new creation. The same holds true for the rest of our broken creation.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

This is the last lesson in the last unit of this curriculum. Through each unit, each lesson has pointed to how God is carrying out His epic plan of salvation through Jesus. Together with your students, review God's epic plan, from making a promise to Adam and Eve, to protecting His people in the Old Testament, to sending our Savior to be born a human baby, to Jesus' death and resurrection, and finally, to Jesus' return. Perhaps together with your class make a giant timeline. Encourage your students to fill in as many details and Bible narratives as they can remember.

LEAVE

SAY Jesus will come again. It could be tomorrow or it could be far in the future. It doesn't matter. On that day, when He comes to make all things new, He will make us new too.

SING The Doxology, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"
"The Lord's Prayer"
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

PRAY Dear Jesus, You are the beginning and the end of all creation. You have poured Your grace upon us. We are so excited to know that You are coming again and that we will be with You forever. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.



DOWNLOADABLE PAGE

Extend learning by printing the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. See the back page of this guide for details.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus will return to raise the dead and make all things new for His people.



LEADER NOTE

If you are using this as the last lesson in the unit, remember to hand out copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for students to take home and read on their own or with their families.

DOWNLOADABLE PAGE HELPS

Make copies of the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. Use the helps below as a guide. Talk about this together. Have students dictate answers as needed.

Right now, as we live today for Jesus, He wants us to feed, clothe, and visit those in need (Matthew 25:34–40). He also wants us to keep and follow His Word (Revelation 22:7). This means that we are not to add anything to God’s Word or take anything away from it (Revelation 22:18–19). Student illustrations should reflect these truths.

When Jesus returns, He will place those who believe in Him (“sheep”) on His right and unbelievers (“goats”) on His left. Those who believe in Jesus are His sheep (John 10:27–28). If we trust in Jesus as our Savior and the only way to salvation, we are ready for His return.

THE LAST CALL—JESUS WILL RETURN
Unit 9, Lesson 14

Ready for Jesus' Return!

NOW	WHEN JESUS RETURNS
<p>Review Matthew 25:34–40 and Revelation 22:7 (8–9). Draw a few simple pictures or write words to describe what Jesus wants us to do right now as we live for Him as His redeemed and forgiven children and wait for His return.</p>	<p>Review Matthew 25:31–33. When Jesus returns, what will He do with those who believe in Him ("sheep") and those who do not ("goats")? When Jesus returns, those who believe in Him as their Lord and Savior will be saved. How do you know if you are ready for Jesus' return? See Matt. 24:18 and Romans 10:13.</p>

[Jesus said,] "Surely I am coming soon." (Revelation 22:20)



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

SHEEP AND GOATS GAME

10–15 minutes

Draw sheep and goat faces (go online for examples) on white balloons or table tennis balls. Make enough for two teams. Mix each set in its own bag, then give one bag to each team. Time the teams to see how long it takes each to sort them out. After the fun, talk about the real meaning of the sheep and goats.

“COMING SOON” POSTER

Times may vary

Talk about how new movies and TV shows are sometimes advertised with a “Coming Soon” poster. Challenge your students to make their own “Coming Soon” poster for Jesus’ return, including details from Scripture. For students who are skilled at using technology, allow them to use digital tools. Students can work in pairs or small groups.

CONNECT THE DOTS

Times may vary

We read in Matthew about Jesus separating the sheep from the goats, and then we jump to Revelation to learn more. We have to “connect the dots” from one passage to the next. Have students draw their own “connect the dots” pages from the sheep through Jesus to heaven. If possible, copy them on a copy machine to share with others.