

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 can describe from the text what it means for me 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*.

MORE TIME Read "Apologetics Helps" on the back page in preparation for the "Live" section.

IN DEPTH Read the article "Christ in Revelation" on page 2237 of *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

SUPPLIES

FOR THIS LESSON

- Poster board
- Markers
- Index cards

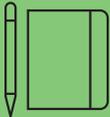
FOR EVERY LESSON

- Student copies of *Defend Journal*
- Bibles
- Pens
- Shareable images from digital resource center
- Supplies for bonus activities
- cph.org/digitalcontent



LEADER NOTE

Option: Ask youth how the end of the world is pictured or described in books, movies, TV, and popular culture.



DEFEND JOURNAL

Hand out journals and turn to Lesson 14.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Dig deeper into the meaning of this text with “Judgment.”



LEADER NOTE

This passage in Revelation is filled with rich imagery and theological concepts. If you would like to dig deeper into this passage, you could read the study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible* or look at a Bible commentary.

LAUNCH

WALK-IN QUESTION

Do you ever think about the end of the world?

THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

Hold up a paper that says, “The End Is Near.” Ask youth if they’ve ever seen someone holding a sign like that. What predictions have youth heard about the end of the world?

SAY People have a lot of ideas about how this world will end. How do we know what will really happen? Today, we’ll see what God’s Word tells us.

PRAY Heavenly Father, only You know the day when Christ will return. Help us not to fear, but to look forward to Jesus’ second coming. Amen.

LEARN

READ “THE BIG PICTURE” AND TALK IT OUT

▷ What does it mean to be ready when Jesus comes again?

DISCUSSION POINTS

- We are ready when we believe in Jesus as our Savior, trusting in Him alone for salvation.

LEARN ABOUT “THE LAST CALL”

Read **Matthew 25:31–46** or ask volunteers to read as others follow along in their Bibles.

- ▷ Describe the difference between the “sheep” and the “goats.”
- The “sheep” cared for others, giving them food and drink, welcoming and clothing others, visiting the sick and those in prison.
- The “goats” did not care for others.
- ▷ How is it that we serve Jesus when we serve others?
- Jesus is Immanuel, “God with us.” Jesus is with His people in such a way that we serve Him when we are serving others.
- ▷ How are we saved? By good works or by faith? Explain.
- We are saved by faith in Jesus, who paid the price for our sin. Good works are a result of being saved, not the cause of our salvation.
- **Ephesians 2:8–10:** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Read **Revelation 22:6–21**.

- ▷ What are Christians to do as we wait for Jesus to return?
- We are to keep God’s Word. We should read the Word, learn it, live according to it, believe it, and share it with others.
- We are not to worship angels, saints, or other created beings, but worship God only.
- ▷ What gives you hope as you read these words of Jesus to His Church and to us?
- Allow youth to share their thoughts. Share yours as well!

LIVE

DISCUSS “JESUS IS COMING”

On a big poster board, write in large letters (or ask a teen to write), “JESUS IS COMING.” Hand out premarked Bibles (see Leader Note in sidebar) to pairs of youth. Ask them to look up the Bible references on the index cards and discuss the question below with their partner. Encourage pairs to write their thoughts on the poster board. Then join together and ask pairs to read their Bible verses and what they wrote on the poster board. You may want to use “Apologetics Helps” on the back of this leaflet for support as you discuss.

► **What will happen when Jesus comes again?**

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Have youth look back at the texts from the lesson. Jesus will separate the believers from the unbelievers when He comes again.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:16–17:** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.
- **John 14:1–3:** [Jesus said,] “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.”
- **Matthew 24:27:** For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- **2 Peter 3:10:** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

CONSIDER “THE RESURRECTION”

“Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. . . . The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:51–52, 56–57).

► **We can look forward to Jesus’ second coming because He has given us the victory! Write or say a prayer of thanks to Jesus.**

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Check for understanding by asking youth to share what will happen to them when Jesus comes again.

LEAVE

Read the Bible Verse, written in the *Defend Journal*:

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

Ask for prayer requests. Offer to pray, or invite a student to pray for everyone.



CHRIST CONNECTION
Jesus has won the victory over death and will return to raise the dead and make all things new for His people.



LEADER NOTE
Before class, write the Bible references under Discussion Points on index cards and mark the verses in several Bibles. Youth will read the verses as they consider the LIVE question.



BONUS ACTIVITY
Rejoice in comfort and anticipation of Jesus’ second coming with “The Lord Is My Salvation.”



SHAREABLE DOWNLOAD
Connect with youth before and after the lesson by using the shareable images from the digital resource center.

APOLOGETICS HELPS

DEFEND THE FAITH

The Book of Revelation is a book of biblical prophecy. Revelation records a series of visions of the end times given to the apostle John, who had been exiled to the island of Patmos for proclaiming the Gospel. The Book of Revelation contains a great amount of complex symbolism. It is best understood after studying Old Testament prophecy, especially the books of Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah. The central theme of Revelation is comfort for God's people. Despite continuing persecution, Christians can be assured that Christ has won the victory and is preparing a place for us to be with Him forever.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

► Will there be a rapture?

First, what is the rapture? Some people claim that Christ will take all Christians out of the world before a time of tribulation, after which Christ will come again. There is no biblical text that supports that belief. Instead, the Bible clearly tells us that Christ will return again only once to take all believers to be with Him. (See John 5:28–29; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–15; Revelation 1:7, 20:11–15.)

► Is there really life after death?

Yes! Why is this a question? Because there are many today who don't believe in life after death. In Jesus' time, the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. See what Jesus said to them in Mark 12:18–27: “[God] is not God of the dead, but of the living.” See also 1 Corinthians 15, where Paul talks about the resurrection of the dead. “For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins . . . If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:16–17, 19–20).



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

LISTEN AND SING!

5–10 minutes

Look online for “The Lord Is My Salvation” by Keith and Kristyn Getty. Listen to the lyrics, and sing along if you like. How do the words of this song reflect the truth that Christ is our salvation? What hope do the words give as they point to our Savior?

HE'S COMING! POSTERS

10–15 minutes

Hand out quarter-sheets of poster board and let youth make their own “Jesus Is Coming!” posters. Have them choose Bible verses that talk about Jesus' second coming and put them on the posters. Let youth take the posters home, or hang them in your Bible study area.

JUDGMENT

15–20 minutes

Read Matthew 10:5–15. Jesus sent out the disciples to proclaim the kingdom of God. They took no supplies but relied on others. Rejecting the disciples and their message brought judgment. How do these verses shed light on the judgment of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25?