

## **Session 2**

### **THEME: HOW WILL JESUS RETURN?**

#### **Looking Back**

- Follow up anything from the last session, e.g., things they were encouraged to do
- What was the most important thing you did or heard at the last session?

#### **CONNECT**

### **The Return of Jesus**

#### **Resources**

Bible

#### **Icebreaker activity**

Take turns acting like a king or a queen.

How can you tell who the King or queen is in a room full of people?

#### **Discussion**

When Jesus came to earth, what kind of things did he do?

Do you think he acted like a king?

As you discuss this, think about: Where was Jesus born? How did he treat people? Did he order people about? Did he demand or invite people to follow him (can you give some examples of this)? How did he treat sinners? What sort of people did he mix with? Did he come to conquer the people and get rich? Why did he come to earth?

Do you know what animal Jesus was described as when he came to earth and died on the cross? A lamb.

From our discussion about how Jesus acted when he was on earth, why do you think he was described as a lamb? He was meek and gentle. He allowed people to kill him on a cross. He didn't answer back when questioned.

What other animal is Jesus associated with? A lion (of Judah).

When he came the first time he came as a lamb. When he comes back he will come back as a lion. What characteristics does a lion have? Strong, roaring, ruling, fighting, overcoming, not to be messed with.

# TRUTH TO KNOW

## Focus for our faith: Jesus comes back as warrior and King.

### Introduction

We want to help you know the Truth, and we are going to do our best to tell you what is true, but you don't just need to take our word. You need to read it in the Bible for yourself. So, each time we meet, we will open the Bible and read the Truth. This week's "Truth to Know" is found in Revelation 19:11-16, 19-21, 20:1-4.

IN:Tribe Connect:

Remember that being in IN is like the Issachar Tribe: we are to know the times. We're also to know what to do.

We know Jesus is coming back. We know when He returns, He will be a Warrior and King.

He will rescue His people from bad things happening to them.

We know Jesus said there would be signs that would tell us His return is soon.

We should watch for the signs and stand firm when times are tough.

We should be ready for Jesus to come back.

Did you know the Bible tells us that Jesus will come back as a warrior and the King?

### Background to this Bible passage

The Book of Revelation is a special book in the Bible. The Apostle John was given visions by God of what would take place in the future. It wasn't the first time God had shared with His people what would happen in the future; He had done it all throughout history. He would tell people called prophets what was going to happen. In the Bible, there are many books by these prophets. The visions God gave John were to help God's people understand what those other prophets had said about the future.

The prophets from the Old Testament, Jesus Himself while on earth, and the Book of Revelation all give a lot of details about things that would happen in the future. In the IN:Tribe, you'll learn more about these things. For example, one thing that you'll learn is that Satan (the Devil) will use two people, the Antichrist (also called the Beast or first Beast) and the False Prophet, to trick the world and hurt God's people.

When many people in the world have been tricked, and God's people have been hurt, the Antichrist leads a large army to kill all of God's people.

### The Unfolding Story (your interactive "teaching")

Read Revelation 19:11-16, 19-21, 20:1-4.

### Activity suggestion

Aim: To picture what it will be like when Jesus comes back.

Imagine you are the army of Heaven riding behind Jesus. Younger children may want to pretend to ride on their horses. Older children may want to tell you where they will be in the procession. They may also want to say who else will be with Jesus (Bible characters, family members who died in Christ).

## Discuss

- ⇒ The Jesus we read about today is the same Jesus we talked about earlier, but in what way is he different in this passage compared to the first time he came? (If you are doing the “army of heaven” activity, ask this as they finish, but before they sit down, you can prompt them by what they are doing). The Bible says He came as a humble servant the first time He came. He came to be a sacrifice for our sins with His death on the cross, but this time He comes as a warrior and King.
- ⇒ Did you know that in the past, riding on a white horse was something special?

When great warriors came somewhere to conquer—they rode white horses. When Kings came into rule over a place, they rode white horses. Though we don’t see that a lot today, THROUGH THIS VISION GOD GAVE THE APOSTLE JOHN, HE WANTS US TO KNOW JESUS WILL RETURN AS WARRIOR AND KING.

- ⇒ Besides the white horse, what are some other clues in what was read that tell us that Jesus would return as a warrior and a king?  
Warrior = The sword coming out of His mouth, the riders behind Him called the army of Heaven, Jesus defeating His enemies. King = Called King of Kings, that He will be on the throne in His kingdom.

Through this image of Jesus riding on the white horse, God wants us to know Jesus will return as Warrior and King.

Jesus is coming back, and when He comes back, He will rescue His people and fix everything that is wrong. As with the last lesson we’re told to be ready! To be ready, we need to watch for and prepare for Jesus’ return.

- ⇒ How does knowing Jesus will return and defeat all His enemies make you feel? It makes me want to be on His side, and I can know that He will win.
- ⇒ What do you think the disciples felt when the angel told them He would come back?

## READY TO GO

*Thinking about how this affects our lives and how to respond to the signs we see.*

If you remember from our first lesson as the Tribe of Issachar, we’re to be strong and wise while watching for the signs that God gives about Jesus’ return.

- ⇒ Did you know we can join with the Army of Heaven? The Army of Heaven will include angels, but not just angels. Did you hear how all who placed their faith in Jesus and followed Him, even when it was hard, are brought back to life to be with Him!

One of the verses we read earlier talked about those in the Army of Heaven and that we will. Therefore, we should want to place our faith in Jesus and follow Him. We should follow Him even when it’s hard. So that when He returns, He finds us faithful.

- ⇒ What have you learned about those who will be in Jesus’ kingdom and His army? They have put their faith in Jesus and followed Him even when it’s hard.

## Activity suggestion

As a group, list some of the things that could be hard for those who follow Jesus to do.

## TIME FOR ACTION



1. "Stop and think" action point.

Take two minutes to think about Jesus coming back. Then, talk with Him about it and ask Him to help you understand and be ready.



2. "Pause to pray" action point.

Pray for people you know who do not know about Jesus and that He is coming back. Ask God for a chance to tell them.



3. "Go and do" action point.

Knowing that those in Jesus' kingdom follow Jesus even when it's hard, how can you follow Jesus this week? Pray together that He will help you.

## FOR DEEPER STUDY

*For those who want to study further about the themes raised in the session.*

### For Study, read:

1. Revelation 16:11-16 to learn more about the enemies of God coming to fight God's people.
2. Psalm 2:1-2 to learn more about what the armies of the world do to Jesus and God's people.

### For Memorizing:

1. Revelation 19:11: "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war."

### For Observation:

Look around at what is happening in the world - in the news or even in your neighborhood. What are people doing? What are countries doing? What do you think God thinks about the different things you see?

1. Why do you think the world needs Him to return?
2. Who do you want to tell that Jesus is coming back?

### For Action:

1. Ask three adults in your church if they know Jesus will come back as a warrior and King.
2. Tell one person that Jesus will win.

### Before the next IN:Tribe:

1. Read more about Jesus' return in the Bible (we will be thinking about this next time). Matthew 24 & 25.
2. Read Jesus and the White Horse by Jake McCandless.