

Session 3

THEME: WHEN 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 Waiting Well

Resources

Bibles, paper, pens, pictures of signs

Icebreaker activity

- ⇒ Draw, show or tell how you react while you are waiting for something.

(Look at your watch, look out the window, pace up and down, fold arms and look fed up, etc.)

Discussion

- ⇒ Who likes waiting? The group can show their answers by putting their thumbs up, down, or sideways.
- ⇒ Why do you feel that way? Answers will depend on how they feel about waiting – it may depend on what you are waiting for.
- ⇒ Imagine a car journey to the beach or to visit your relatives. Imagine you are waiting for the bus to take you and your friends for a school trip. Who has ever said:
- “Are we there yet?” Or “I’m BORED!” “Is it here yet?” What is the answer?
- ⇒ What do you do to pass the time?

Let’s have a look in the Bible to see if there is anything to help us while we wait for Jesus to return - like can we know the time He is expected at least?

TRUTH TO KNOW

Focus for our faith: Jesus gives signs and tells us what to do while we wait

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 Matthew 24.

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 there will be signs that His coming is getting nearer?

Background to this Bible passage

Up to now, the Jewish leaders did not like Jesus at all - they rejected Him as the Messiah sent by God because of His humble background, His teaching (which seemed to favor the poor and oppressed), and the miracles He did, which gathered crowds to him. So Jesus told his disciples that He would not come to Jerusalem again until the leaders there accepted Him.

The unfolding Story (your interactive "teaching")

Read Matthew 24:3, 29-33, 36 & 42.

Jesus told the disciples some key signs they should look for, and we can see that many of them are happening now. He said that there would be many bad things happening and some really good things.

Activity suggestion

Aim: To think about the signs we notice on a journey.

Think about a journey you often take - draw a map with the marker points on the way, which give you some signs that the destination is getting nearer. It might be a landmark: a house painted blue or some field. (This activity would be helpful to do before reading the Truth to Know verses and background.)

Discuss

Jesus told the disciples some key signs they should look for.

- ⇒ What signs can you find in Matthew 24:3-15 and 23-33? False Messiahs, false teachers, deception, wars, threats of wars, famines, earthquakes, persecutions, people leaving the faith, and the Gospel spreading all around the world.

Look at the attached list of signs that Jesus mentions.

- ⇒ Can we see any of these happening today?
- ⇒ Can you think of anything in the news or even something you've seen in your neighborhoods relating to these signs?
- ⇒ How should we respond to these signs?

READY TO GO

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

Jesus tells us how we should respond to these signs.

Draw a countdown clock or a timeline towards Jesus coming back. Put on it three responses:

- Don't be afraid (of wars or earthquakes or famine) Matthew 24:6
- Stand Firm (when people hate Christians) Matthew 24:13
- Don't believe people claiming to bring peace. (Such as a politician or world leader).
Matthew 24:4 You will KNOW when it is Jesus.

TIME FOR ACTION



1. "Stop and think" action point.

Jesus tells us we should watch (Matthew 24:4 & 24). What does he mean by this?



2. "Pause to pray" action point.

Pray for courage and strength and to only believe the word of God.



3. "Go and do" action point.

What else should I be doing while I wait (Matthew 24:14)?

Tell your friends and family that if they know Jesus, they don't need to be afraid.

FOR DEEPER STUDY

For those who would like to study further about themes raised in the session.

For Study, read:

1. Matthew 24 to learn the signs of the end times.
2. Zechariah 12-14 to read about the coming physical and spiritual salvation of Israel.
3. Revelation 6 to learn about some of the bad things that will happen.

For Memorizing:

1. Matthew 24:42-44: "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

For Observation:

1. Matthew 24:14 shows what will set off the end of this age.
2. What other Matthew 24 signs can you see happening in the world around you?

For Action:

1. Research websites like JoshuaProject.net and the [10/40 Window](#) to find out what is happening to help bring about Matthew 24:14.
2. Ask your church what is happening to support the spread of the Good News worldwide and join in.

Before the next IN:Tribe:

1. Get the Joshua Project app so you can pray for gospel outreach.

Signs at the end of time

DON'T BE AFRAID



People who say they can fix the world.



Wars and stories about wars.
Nations fighting each other.



Earthquakes.



People not having enough to eat.



Christians being persecuted.



Christian leaders twisting
the Bible.



Christians denying Jesus.

STAND FIRM



People behaving badly.

Don't believe people claiming to bring peace



Bad things happen
in Jerusalem.



A world leader
promises peace.

Don't believe them -
you will KNOW when
it is Jesus.

**THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS
WILL BE TOLD TO THE WHOLE WORLD!**