

Session 4

THEME: WHERE WILL JESUS RETURN TO?

Looking Back

- Follow up on 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 Place of Israel**

Resources

Bibles, map of Israel, picture of modern Jerusalem, a picture for each child of the modern-day Mount of Olives, pencils/markers

Icebreaker activity

- ⇒ What places (countries, towns, etc.) are special to you, and why are they special?

It may be somewhere they have been on holiday or a place that holds a special memory or a place they want to visit at some point in life.

Discussion

- ⇒ Do you think Jesus has "special places?" To help younger people to think about this more, you can ask if they think Heaven is a special place for Jesus.
- ⇒ Is your home and where you live special, and would you like to go back to it if you left? Why?
- ⇒ Where did Jesus live when He was on earth? Born in Bethlehem, stayed in Egypt for a time, grew up in Nazareth, and visited Jerusalem and the sea of Galilee. All these places, except for Egypt, are in the nation of Israel.
- ⇒ What nationality are you, and what nationality is Jesus?

TRUTH TO KNOW

Focus for our faith: He will return to Jerusalem

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 Acts 1:1-12.

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 where Jesus will return to?

Background to this Bible passage

Do you remember that we read about Jesus going up to Heaven in our first time together? The disciples were confused and stood there frozen, but angels came and helped them. They told them what to do. They also told them Jesus would come back. Finally, they told them where Jesus would return to.

The unfolding Story (your interactive "teaching")

Read Acts 1:8 & 12.

We will be detectives and see how many clues we can find in these Bible verses about Jesus' return to this earth.

Open your Bibles at Acts chapter 1 verses 6-10 to start the search.

Verse 6: The disciples asked when He would come and be King in Israel.

⇒ Verse 7: Did Jesus tell them when? What did He say?

We all would like to know when He will return, but, like the disciples, we don't exactly know – but we do have some more clues about what it will be like.

Verse 11: "He will come back in the same way the disciples saw Him go."

So, let's look for clues in the way He went back to Heaven so we can know about His return:

⇒ Where did He go to in verse 11? *The sky/heaven.*

So, we can be sure He will come back from the sky.

⇒ What else was in the sky (verse 9)? *Clouds.*

So, we can be sure He will come through the clouds.

⇒ When He said this (verses 11 & 12), where were the disciples? Mount of Olives.

So, if He left from the Mount of Olives – He will return there (see Zechariah 14:4).

Spend some time showing pictures of the Mount of Olives as it is today. Stress that it is a real place that actually exists. In fact, it is possible to visit it today.

⇒ We have a clue what city is near the Mount of Olives. Which city is that (verse 12)?

So, Jesus will go back to Jerusalem. Show some pictures of Jerusalem as it is today (The Old and New City).

⇒ What country is the Mount of Olives and Jerusalem in? Israel.

So, the country He will come back to is – Israel.

⇒ Which country did Jesus live in? Israel.

⇒ Where was His home? Israel.

Jesus is coming home to be King ruling from Israel's capital city, which is... Jerusalem.

The land of Israel is REALLY important to Him, and He loves it. So if it is important to Jesus and He loves it, then it must be important to us, and we should love it – even more than we love the other places we talked about loving at the beginning – but we will learn more about that another time.

Activity suggestion

Aim: To give everyone a sense of the reality of His return to a specific place as it exists today.

Show a map and see who can find Israel – talk about its size, etc., in relation to other nations.

Print pictures of the Mount of Olives. Ask everyone to draw, on that picture, Jesus returning to it with His feet on that mountain (see Zechariah 14:4). Remind them that He is coming as King on a white horse, through the clouds to enter Jerusalem.

Discuss

⇒ How many people do you think know that He is REALLY coming back to a REAL place in a REAL country? If they don't know, ask them how much they have heard people talking about Jesus coming back to an actual place in Israel.

⇒ Why is it important that we know this? There may be a range of answers here, but Jesus wants us to know and look out for His return. We need to know where He will be returning so we can do this.

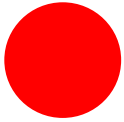
READY TO GO

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

Read Psalm 126:6.

Pray for Jerusalem – the city Jesus loves so much.

TIME FOR ACTION



1. "Stop and think" action point.

Close your eyes and "see Him" returning.



2. "Pause to pray" action point.

- a. As you "see Him" coming, what would you like to tell Him?
- b. What do you think He will say to you when He comes back?



3. "Go and do" action point.

Tell two people this week that He REALLY is coming back and that you know where that will be. Help them to be excited too.

FOR DEEPER STUDY

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

For Study, read:

Matthew 23:37. Which specific people is Jesus referring to when he says "you," especially in the last sentence?

Jesus will not return until Jerusalem welcomes Him back. He is not coming to force His rule, just as He did not 2000 years ago. The rulers of that city must say,! See Matthew 23:37. Can you find this in Hebrew because this is the language they will use?

For Memorizing:

Acts 1:11: "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into Heaven."

For Observation:

Picture of modern Jerusalem – notice the different quarters and find out who is in charge there.

Look at a picture of the view from the Mount of Olives and find out what the Jewish prophecy is regarding the coming of Messiah (which gate and what happened to that gate as a result).

For Action:

Pray for the Jewish people in Jerusalem to know Jesus (or Yeshua, which is His Hebrew name).

Before the next IN:Tribe:

Notice how many times Jerusalem, Israel, or the Mount of Olives is mentioned when you read the Bible this week.