



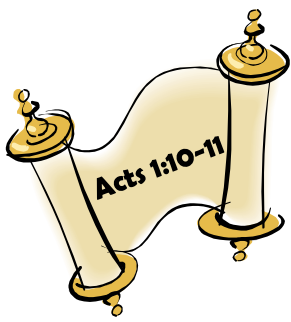
THE PROMISE

NOT YET

KEPT

Lesson 5

Option A



JESUS WILL RETURN ONE DAY

Scriptures

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
2 Peter 3:1-15

Memory Verse

The Lord is not slow to keep his promise. He is not slow in the way some people understand it. Instead, he is patient with you. He doesn't want anyone to be destroyed. Instead, he wants all people to turn away from their sins.
2Peter 3:9 Nlrv

The Promise: Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus was taken up to heaven in a cloud while the disciples watched. "As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!'" (Acts 1:10-11)

The Promise Kept: "What would you say about a person who had made a hundred promises to you and already kept ninety-nine of them? You probably would think he was honest enough to fulfill the last promise as well, wouldn't you? Jesus Christ has fulfilled every promise He ever made, except one. He has not returned yet."*

Do you think He will keep the last promise? You know, "faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see. That is what the people of long ago were praised for." (Hebrews 11:1-2 Nlrv) Two thousand years have passed and that's a long time. Jesus will keep His last promise; He is Faithful and True! A virgin conceived a child and married a man who was descended from King David. That baby was born in Bethlehem, but came out of Egypt when they had to flee the evil King Herod. Nothing is impossible with God, not even returning after being in heaven 2,000 years! And it will happen like this . . .

"[I] tell you this directly from the Lord: ... the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever." (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 NLT) That sounds exciting doesn't it! As much as people looked forward to the birth of Jesus so long ago, we should "wait eagerly for the day of God to come." (2Peter 3:12)

Some will make fun of you. They will do whatever they want to do and "they will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again?" (2Peter 3:4) But you know what? God's time isn't like our time. Have you ever read the Chronicles of Narnia or watched one of the movies? Time passes differently in Aslan's world than it does in London. The Bible says that, "A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day." (2Peter 3:8) Don't you think for a minute, though, that God has forgotten about His promise of Jesus' return. Do you know why He hasn't returned in 2,000 years? He is being patient with YOU! He doesn't want anyone to die without choosing to follow Him. What love!

Lesson Goals

- To understand that God promised that His Son would return.
- To understand that God has kept all His other promises
- To understand that God will keep this promise as well

Life Application

God's fulfilled promise of sending Jesus means wonderful things for us. "God loved you so much that He sent His one and only Son. Whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) Isn't that good news. Jesus was born so that we could be with God for ever and ever.

Have you given your life to God? Have you told Him that He can be in control? He created you and certainly knows what's best for you. Will you give God control of your life today?

And if you've already done that, are you making sure others know the wonderful Savior that you know?

Have you ever wondered how that eternal life will begin and what it will be like on a new earth? It was put into motion when you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior. It will be completed the day Jesus returns to take us HOME!

But don't be tricked into thinking He will hold off forever. "The day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise." (2 Peter 3:10 NLT) God will keep His promise, even though that promise brings with it the judgment and destruction of the world. "But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth He has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight. And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved." (2 Peter 3:13-15 NLT)

Review

- Has God kept all of His promises? (No.)
- What promise hasn't God kept? (That Jesus "will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go.")
- Will God keep His promise? (Yes.)
- How will God keep His promise? (with a shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet call of God)
- How should we live while we are waiting? ("mak[ing] every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight. And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved.")

*Graham, Billy. *Hope for Each Day*. Thomas Nelson, Nashville, TN. 2002, 2012. p 340.

Preschool Lesson

An Idea

If you have offered candy before class during any of the following weeks, promise candy to your students today, as well. Throughout the welcome time, craft time, etc. ask your students if they are sure that you will give them candy today. Remind them that you have kept your promise each week. Before the lesson, give each student a piece of candy and remind them that God always keeps His promises.

Did you know that Jesus will someday return from heaven? It will happen the same way Jesus went to heaven after growing up on earth for 33 years. Let's see how Jesus will keep that promise!

The Bible tells us that the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout and the sound of a trumpet. Then believers will rise up into the sky in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. (1 Thess 4:15-17 NLT) That sounds exciting doesn't it! As much as people looked forward to baby Jesus being born so long ago, we should "wait for Jesus to return." (2Peter 3:12)

Some will make fun of you. They will do whatever they want to do and "they will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again?" (2Peter 3:4) But you know what? God's time isn't like our time. Have you ever read the Chronicles of Narnia or watched one of the movies? Time passes differently in Aslan's world than it does in London. The Bible says that, "A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day." (2Peter 3:8) Don't you think for a minute, though, that God has forgotten about His promise of Jesus' return. Do you know why He hasn't returned in 2,000 years? God is being patient with YOU! He doesn't want anyone to die without choosing to follow Him. He wants you to have time to realize how much He loves you and decide to follow Him.

Don't be tricked into thinking God will wait forever. "The day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief." (2 Peter 3:10 NLT) God will keep His promise.

We are waiting for God to punish people for their sin. Then He will make a new heaven and new earth. It will be a world filled with God's goodness. While we are waiting for all of this to happen, the Bible tells us to do everything we can, with God's help, to be peaceful and pure and obedient. The Bible also tells us to remember that God's patience gives people time to be saved. (2 Peter 3:13-15)

God has made a lot of promises and kept every one of them...except this one, so far. We can trust God to keep this promise, too!



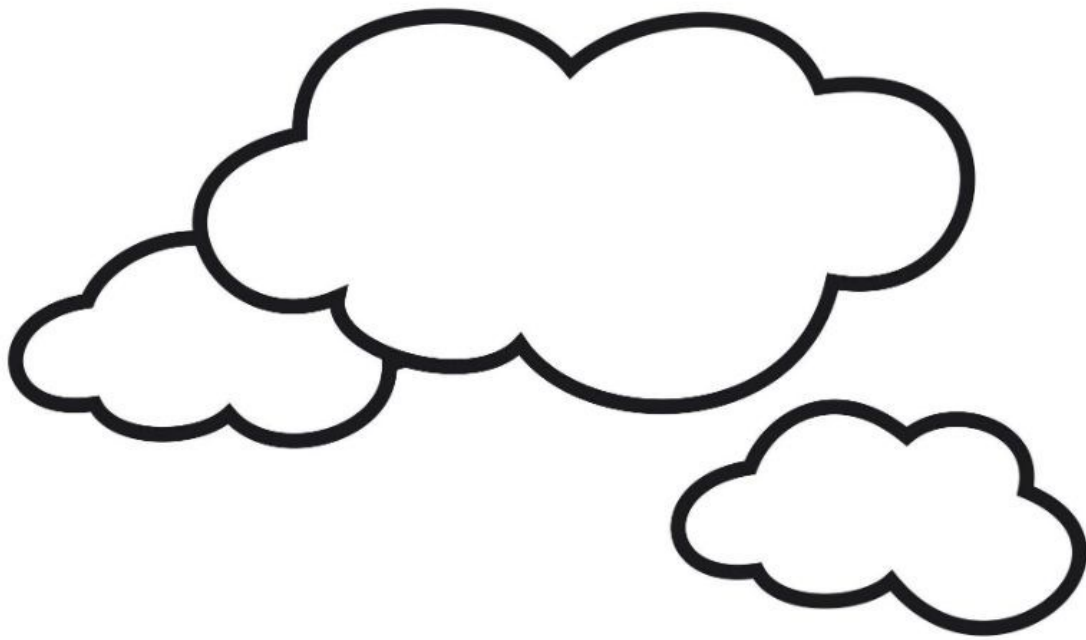
Activities

If you have trouble finding coloring pages to accompany this lesson, use pictures from Jesus' ascension and change the captions. Acts 1:11 tells us that Jesus will come back the way He went.

Make a diorama with shoeboxes. Encourage your students to imagine what their place in heaven may look like.

Have your students read through Revelation 21:10-27. Talk about what we have to look forward to. Encourage them to illustrate the passage.

Sing "I'll Fly Away," "Every Day With Jesus" including extra verses, and "When We All Get to Heaven." Also sing "Blessed Assurance," focusing on the phrase "Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine." Then sing "Joy to the World," explaining that it is more a song of Jesus' return than a Christmas Carol. "Joy to the World" is based on Psalm 98. Read that Psalm together.



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to keep his promise.

He is not slow in the way
some people understand it.

Instead, he is patient with you.

He doesn't want anyone to be

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WORD SEARCH

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t p c k e s i m o o p s
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Jesus

come again

not slow

patient

peaceful

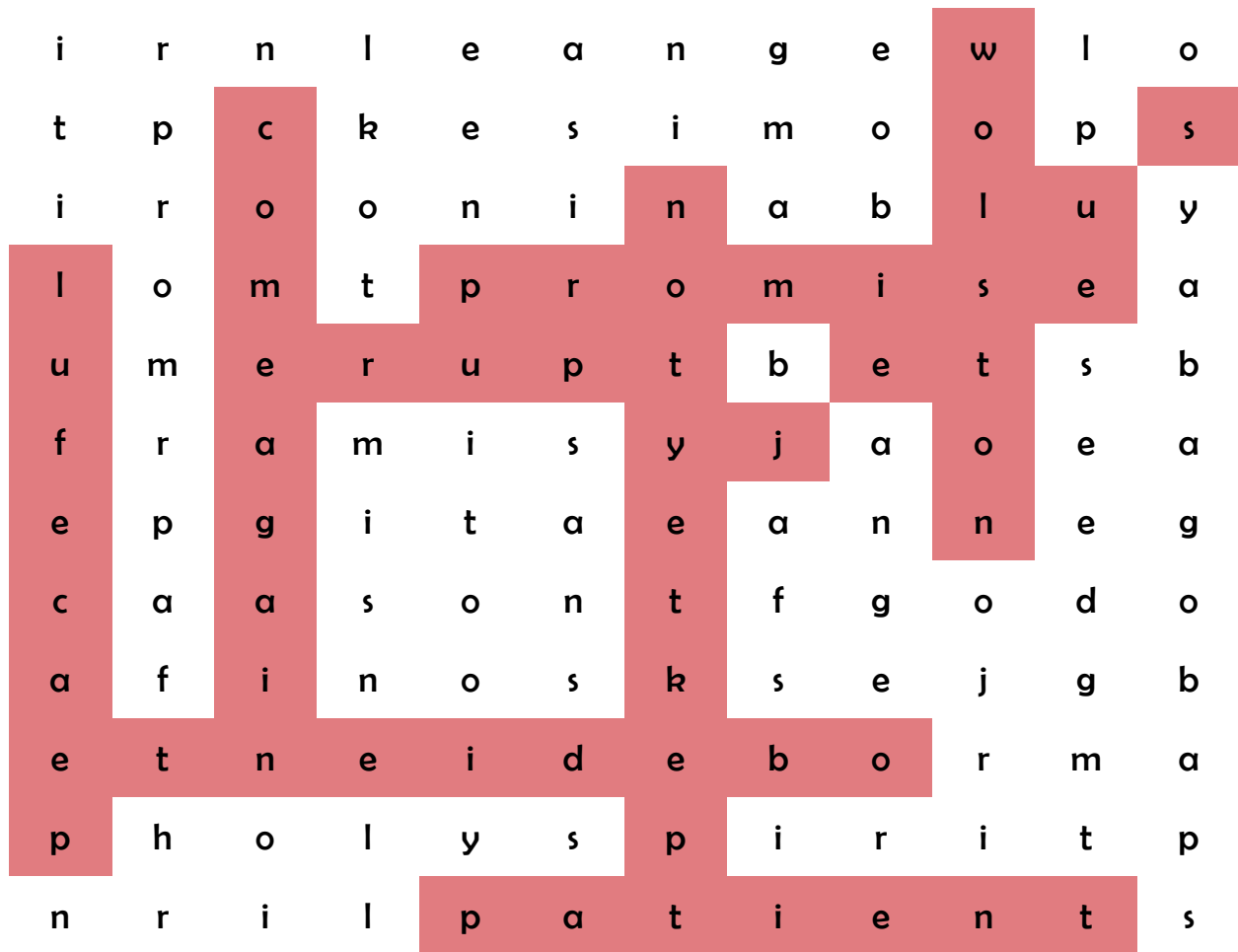
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