



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 2



Jesus Will Come Back

Acts 1:9-11

Supplemental Scripture

Mark 13
John 14:1-6
2 Peter 3:1-18
1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:11

Memory Verse

You should live holy and
godly lives. Live like that
as you look forward
to the day of God.
2 Peter 3:11-12 (NirV)

Lesson Goals

- Understand that Jesus will
come back one day
- Understand that God will
keep His promise
- Understand that God is
patient
- Understand that God
wants people to be saved
- Encourage students to live
in a way that pleases God

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

Last week, we talked about a race. We talked about how some people just watch and how others run in the race. What instructions did Jesus give His disciples? They were to wait in Jerusalem for God to send the Holy Spirit. What were they to do after that? They would receive power along with the Holy Spirit and they were to be witnesses of all that they had seen and heard, from the city of Jerusalem, where they were waiting for the Holy Spirit, to the very ends of the earth. Let's see what else happened.

Doctor Luke tells us in the first chapter of Acts that it has been forty days since Jesus came back to life. He has talked with His disciples and given them instructions. Then, He was taken up to heaven. He went up in the clouds and the disciples just stood and watched. They watched as He rose further and further into the sky. They watched until the clouds blocked their view. And they kept looking up even after He was gone.

Suddenly there were two more men with them! The men were dressed in white clothes. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into Heaven. But He will come back in the same way you saw Him go." (Acts 1:11 NirV)

The men in white didn't tell them what to do; remember, they were to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. The men in white told them that Jesus would be coming back. That must have made the disciples feel better. They had seen Jesus crucified and buried, then He was with them again. But after forty days, He was gone again. He had already promised not to leave them as orphans, but to send the Holy Spirit. They also needed to know that Jesus would return.

Why is it important that Jesus is coming back? Well, it shows us that God keeps His promises. Do you remember that before Jesus died, He said He was going to prepare a place for us and that He

Application

How about you? Do others see Jesus in you?

Maybe your answer is no because you have never given your life to God.

He loves you so much that He sent His one and only Son to die for all the bad things you have done. He is also being patient with you.

Jesus hasn't returned yet, because God is giving you an opportunity to choose Him.

Your answer might be no because even though you have accepted Him as your Savior, you are still sitting in the stands and might even be doing things that displease God. You can approach God and ask for His forgiveness. He is faithful and will forgive you.

If your answer is yes, I think the people around me do see Jesus, are you also telling them? God wants everyone to be saved. "So try to do your best to be found pure and without blame. Be at peace with God. Remember that while our Lord is waiting patiently to return, people are being saved." (2 Peter 3:14-15 NlrV)

would return? (John 14:1-3) If Jesus didn't return, that would make God a liar, and lying is something God **cannot** do.

But, it has been almost 2,000 years! That's a long time to wait. In Second Peter, Chapter 3, we read that God isn't being slow about His promise of Jesus' return, at least not the way we think of slowness. God is being patient. God wants everyone to turn away from their sins. "And what kind of people should you be? You should lead holy and godly lives. Live like that as you look forward to the day of God. It will make the day come more quickly." (2 Peter 3:11-12 NlrV)

How do we live holy and godly lives? Second Peter continues, "so be on your guard. Then you won't be led down the wrong path by the mistakes of people who don't obey the law." (2 Peter 3:17 NlrV) We also read in the Bible, in 1 Thessalonians, that we should control our own bodies (4:4), we shouldn't take advantage of others (4:6), and we should love each other (4:9). We should also mind our own business and work hard (4:11). Once we walk in a personal relationship with God, we shouldn't be like everyone else. "Instead, let us be wide awake and in full control of ourselves." (5:6)

So, knowing that Jesus is coming back, and that He hasn't come back yet because He wants others to be saved, should make a difference in the way we live. People around us need to see Jesus through the way we live, the things we say and the things we do. Do others see Jesus in you?

Review

1. What happened after Jesus told His disciples "You will be My witnesses?" (He went up to heaven.)
2. How did Jesus go to heaven? (He went up in the clouds.)
3. What happened next? (Two men in white appeared.)
4. What did they say? (Jesus will come back, just as you saw Him go.)

Next Week
Matthias is Chosen
Acts 1:12-26

Preschool Lesson

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Suddenly there were two more men with them! The men were dressed in white clothes. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into Heaven. But He will come back in the same way you saw Him go.” (Acts 1:11 NIV)

Why is it important that Jesus is coming back? Well, it shows us that God keeps His promises. Before Jesus died, He said He was going to prepare a place for us and that He would return. (John 14:1-3) If Jesus didn't return, that would make God a liar, and lying is something God **cannot** do.

But, it has been almost 2,000 years! That's a long time to wait. In the Bible we read that God isn't being slow about His promise of Jesus' return, at least not the way we think of slowness. God is being patient. God wants everyone to turn away from his sin. He also wants us to live right, to do the right thing. We do that by loving each other and being kind to each other. God also wants us to be in control of the things we do and to work hard. Do you do the right thing?

Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Print the memory verse on cut-outs of white clouds. Talk about how Jesus returned to heaven, how we should live, and how Jesus will return.

Make Bubble pictures with bubbles and tempera paint. Talk about how the disciples must have felt as they watched Jesus rise up into heaven in the clouds.

Sing “Let Others See Jesus in You,” “This Little Light of Mine,” etc.

Discuss practical ways to let others see Jesus in the way you live. Provide maps. Discuss Jesus’ final instructions to be His witnesses. Where should we go? What should we do? Who should we tell?

Talk about God’s promises. Decorate rainbows and discuss the promise God made to Noah and the promise He has made to us.

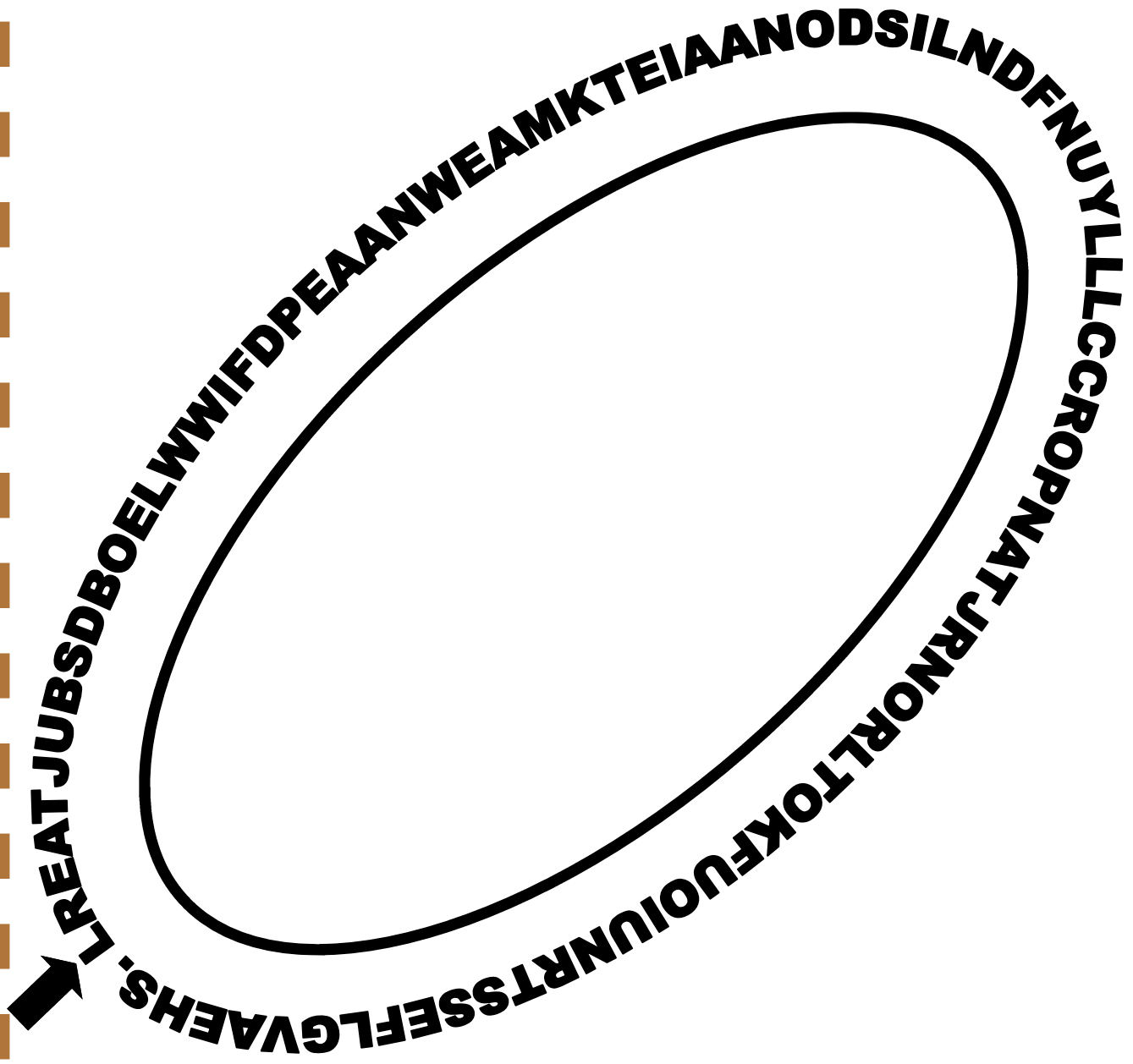


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2 Peter 3:11-12

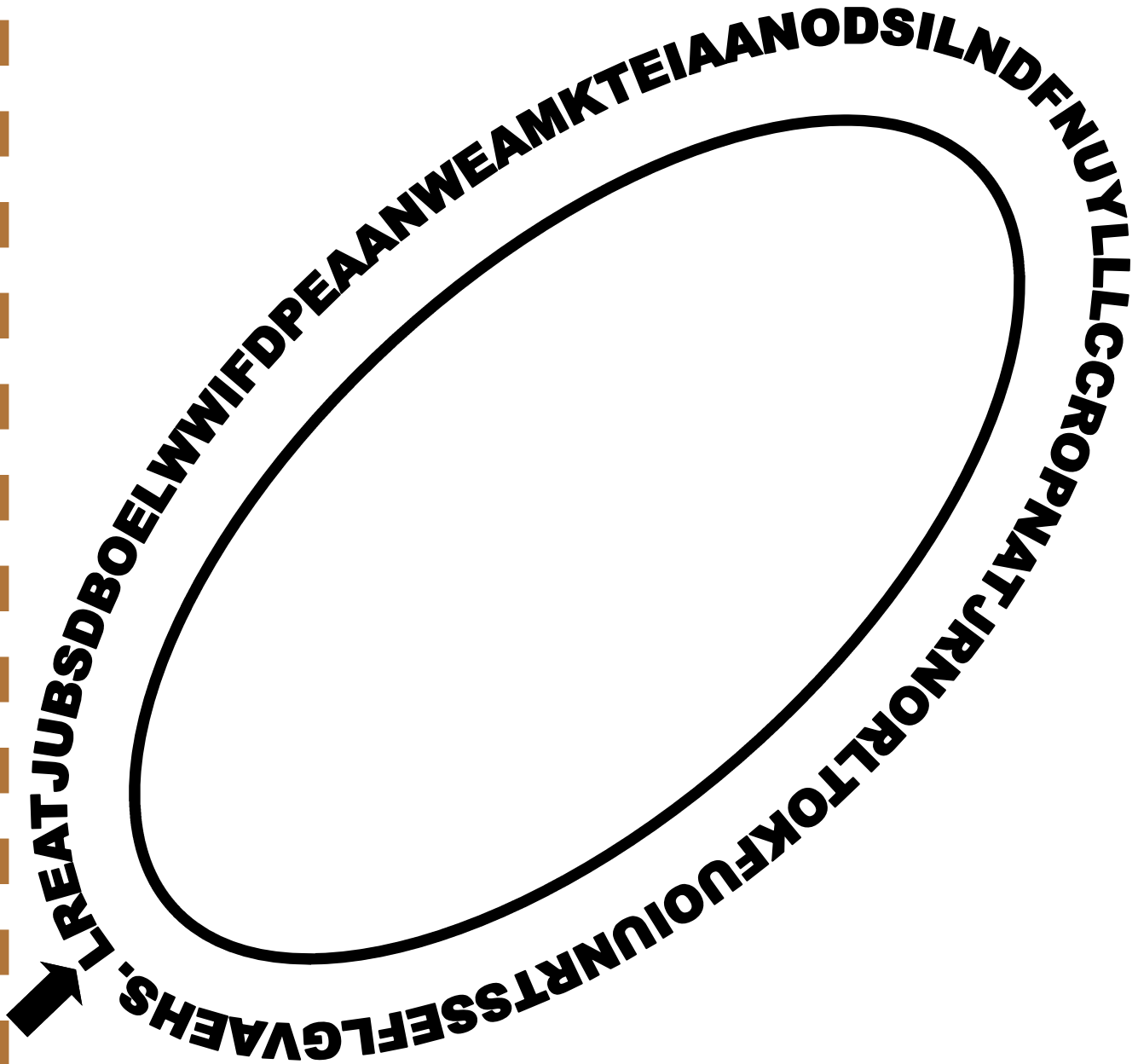
Racing Riddles



Beginning with the "L" at the arrow, write every other letter from around the track in the blanks below to discover how we should run the race until Jesus comes back.

1Thessalonians 5:6 (NirV)

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L e t u s b e w i d e a w a k e
a n d i n f u l l c o n t r o l o f o u r s e l v e s .

1Thessalonians 5:6 (NirV)

Word Search

s u j e r u s l m e a v o l
e n u l i a n r a m a s r y
l u d o d r a u g n o e b y
f s e r t i w o e w h e n s
u p a t i e n t i t r n j u
r e a n a a o t o t k r o w
e d b o p m n h r i e u b y
j r d c e a c r i a f t s d
r a h f l a p i s u s e j n
e h t l e e b v r i d r l e
v k o e o h m l t i u n e s
s r v s a l v a t i o n s o
o o t m e l p s u r l j e r
l w o k i r i t d y c l o u

be on guard

self-control

love each other

work hard

patient

salvation

Jesus

return

clouds

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s u j e r u s l m e a v o l
e n u l i a n r a m a s r y
l u d o d r a u g n o e b y
f s e r t i w o e w h e n s
u p a t i e n t i t r n j u
r e a n a a o t o t k r o w
e d b o p m n h r i e u b y
j r d c e a c r i a f t s d
r a h f l a p i s u s e j n
e h t l e e b v r i d r l e
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