

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 42

BE READY

MARK 13:24-37

Life of Christ

Be Ready

Mark 13:24-37

Younger Verse

The sky and the earth will not last forever, but my words will. Mark 13:31

Older Verse

The sky and the earth will not last forever, but my words will. Mark 13:31

Lesson Goals

Learn what Jesus said about being ready for His return
Recognize that we can trust in what Jesus said would happen
Understand that we can help others to be ready for His return

Opener

Have you ever had a surprise visitor at your home? Did you wish you had cleaned your room and had things ready for them? Today's lesson is about getting ready for Jesus.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week, we learned about some things Jesus said would happen before His return. Do you remember any of the events Jesus said would happen? (earthquakes, famine, wars) Jesus went on to say that after all of these things happen, something else will happen. He said that stars will fall from the sky, and the sun and moon will stop giving light. Strange things will happen in the skies. These will be the signs of Jesus' return!

Jesus said that after that, we will see Him coming in the clouds "with great power and glory." When He came the first time, it was in a humble way. But the next time He comes, He will show His power! Everyone will know that He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Jesus will send the angels throughout the earth to gather all of the believers. He will take His followers with Him.

Then Jesus said that everything in the world will come to an end, but His words will remain. We can trust that whatever Jesus says will happen. He promised that He would die for our sins and raise back to life three days later, and that is exactly what happened. We know that all His words are true. So we can believe what He says about the future and His return.

Jesus said that no one knows what day He will return, so we have to be ready ALL the time! Jesus warned His disciples to watch and pray. Do you remember another time He said this to His disciples? When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, He told His disciples to watch and pray so they wouldn't fall into temptation. That is good advice for us as well. Watch for Christ to return, and pray for others to know Him!

Jesus told a story to illustrate the need to be ready for His return. He compared Him-

self to a man who went on a long trip and left His servants at home to take care of things until he got back. The servants did not know when the master would return, so they had to be ready at all times. So, too, with us, Jesus' followers. We have to be ready for Jesus to come back at all times!

So how do we get ready for Jesus to come back? The first thing to do is invite Jesus to be Lord of your life. He will come into your life and save you from your sins. Then you are His child. Once you are Jesus' follower, you need to grow to know Him better by praying, reading the Bible, and going to Bible study and church. We can try to make choices that will make Jesus happy. What do you want to be doing when Jesus comes back? Let's live every day as if He were coming back, because it just might be today!

We also need to spread the word about Jesus with those who do not know Him. Remember, every nation will have the chance to hear about Him before He returns. We want everyone to be ready for His return!

Review Questions

1. What did Jesus say would happen to the sky before He returns?
(Stars will fall; sun and moon will stop giving light)
2. Did Jesus say when He would return? (No—no one knows the day of His return.)
3. What do we need to be doing to get ready for Jesus to return?
(Make Him Lord of our life, stay close to Him, help others to know Him, too.)

Prayer Time

Thank God for loving us and giving us Jesus to save us. Pray that we will keep watch and pray until He returns.

Life Application

God's Word tells us that one day, every knee will bow and every tongue will say that Jesus is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11). When Jesus returns, everyone will recognize that He is the King of Kings. But why wait to bow before Him and say He is our Lord? We can make Jesus the Lord of our life NOW.

How do you make Jesus the Lord of your life? When you accept Him into your life, you give Him control of your life. He helps you to make good choices and obey His commands. That is making Jesus Lord of your life.

When Jesus returns, if He is already Lord of your life, you will be ready to worship Him, and He will take you with Him to Heaven!

Planning for Lesson 43
A Woman Anoints Jesus
Mark 14:3-9

Preschool Lesson for Be Ready

(Bring a suitcase with some clothes, toothbrush, etc. for going on a trip.)

Hi, boys and girls! I am so excited that you are here today! I am getting ready to go on a trip. What do you think I need for the trip? I have some clothes and my toothbrush. Is that all I need to go on a trip? No? What else do I need? Oh, man, I thought I was ready.

Well, Jesus wants us to be ready for when He comes back to earth. He told His followers that when He comes back, He will come down from the clouds! He will send His angels around the earth to gather His followers to Him.

Jesus said that everything on earth will come to an end, but His words will last forever. Isn't it good to know that we can trust Jesus? He always tells the truth. His words ARE truth!

Do you know when Jesus is coming back? Neither do I. In fact, Jesus said that *no one* knows when He will come back, except God. So He said that we just need to be ready all the time! Jesus could come back today, tomorrow, in 10, 100, or 1,000 years! What do you want Him to find you doing when He comes?

Jesus compared His coming back to a man who went on a trip. He left His servants there to watch the house until he got back. The servants didn't know when the master would return, so they had to be ready at all times. And it's the same for us. We need to be ready for Jesus to come back ALL the time!

One way we can get ready for Jesus to come back is to believe in Him as our Savior and Lord. We can also pray, read the Bible, and go to church and Bible study. And of course, Jesus wants us to tell our friends about Him so they can be ready, too!

Hands-on Activities for Be Ready

Play the game “What time is it, Mr. Wolf?” One child is the “Wolf.” The other children ask Mr. Wolf what time it is and then take that many steps toward the wolf. When they get close to the wolf, Mr. Wolf calls out “Feeding Time!” and chases the players. Remind students that we don’t know the time when Jesus will return, so we have to be ready all the time.

Sing “Do, Lord” and talk about what they think it will be like when Jesus comes back.

Bring cotton balls and construction paper. Have kids glue the cotton balls to make clouds. Then draw Jesus in the clouds. They can draw themselves on the earth. Talk about whether they are ready for Jesus to come.

Bring binoculars. Take the kids outside to look at the sky. Pass around the binoculars. Ask the kids if they think Jesus might come back and what they would do if He did. Would He take them with Him? Why or why not? Explain that we can know we are going to Heaven if we have accepted Jesus as our Savior and Lord.

**The sky and the
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forever, but my
words will.
Mark 13:31**

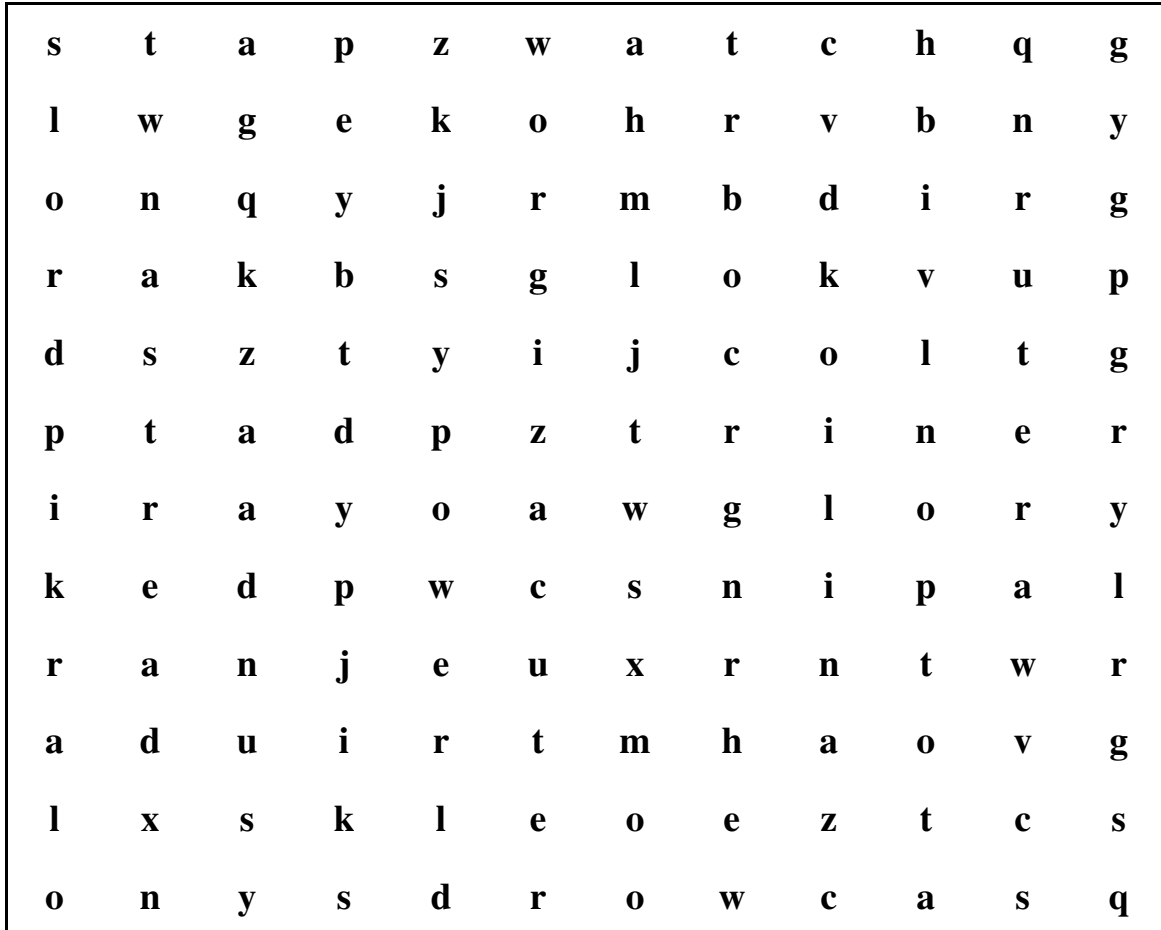


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Word Search

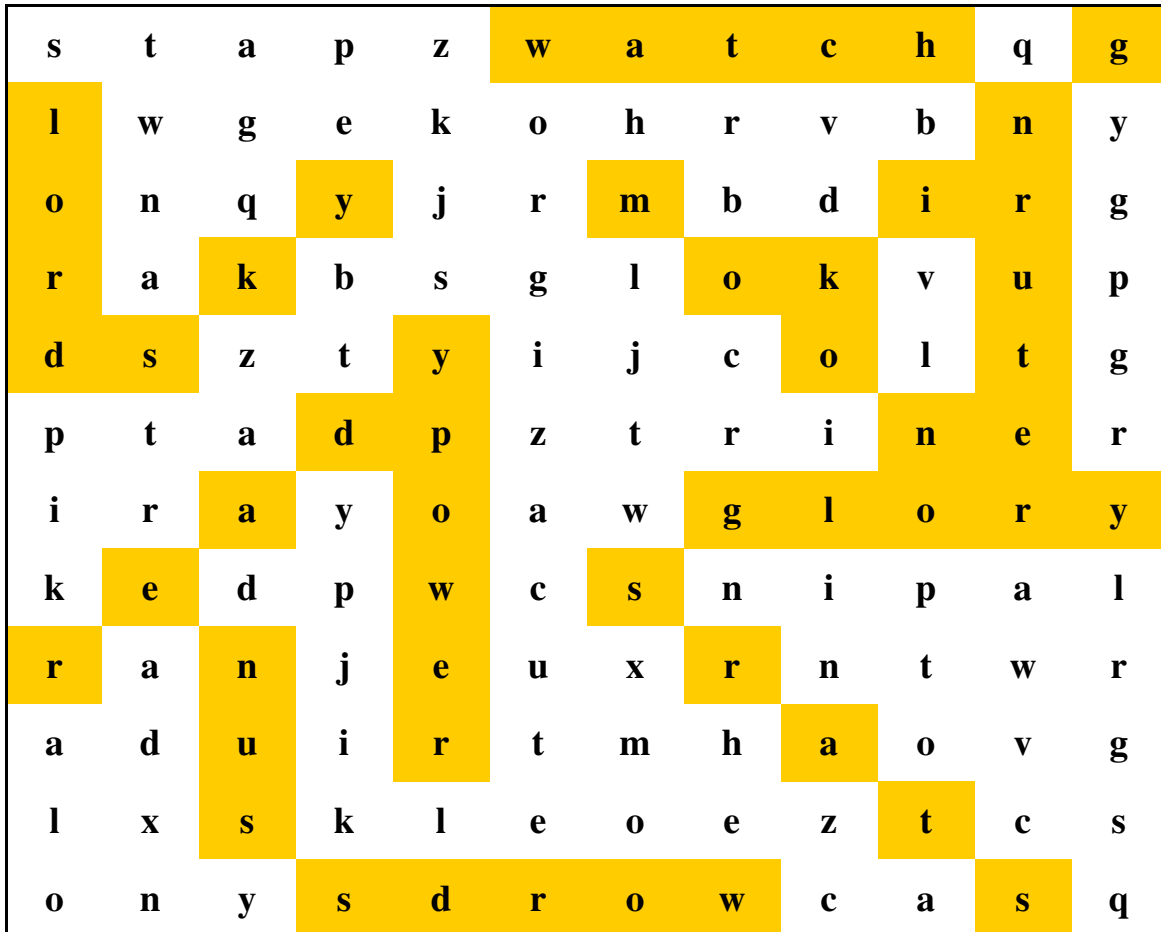
Be Ready



stars	sky	sun
moon	power	glory
words	king	return
ready	watch	Lord

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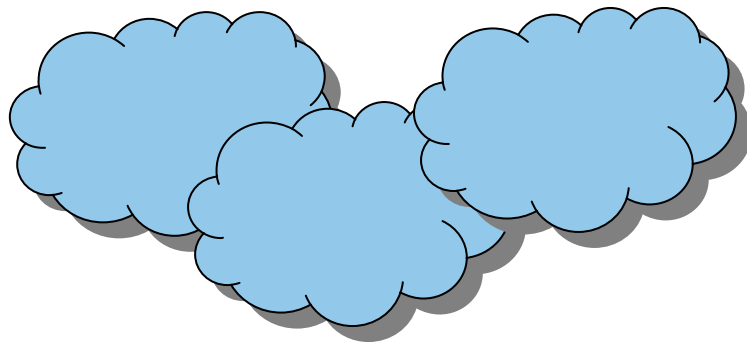
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CLOUDS



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