

JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH PRAYERS

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH PRAYERS

Mark 14:38; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Romans 12:12; Psalm 42:8; James 5:13; Proverbs 15:29; Matthew 21:22

BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 4:7

“The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.”

BIG IDEAS

- Jesus is coming soon.
- Our waiting is empowered by our prayers.
- Jesus followers wait well for Christ’s appearing when we cry, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

BIBLE PASSAGE: REVELATION 22:10-21; 1 PETER 4:7; LUKE 21:34-36

ADVENT

Advent is a special celebration and contemplation of the coming of Jesus Christ that Christians participate in during the Christmas season. Advent literally means “arrival” or “coming”. During Advent season, God’s people remember and rejoice in Jesus’ first coming to save His people from their sins, while at the same time long with anticipation and expectation for His return. Advent centers on Jesus, the saving Son. He alone is the one true King, and He is coming again!

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that...

- Jesus has come and is coming again.
- At Advent, we remember His first coming to anticipate His return.
- We are called to wait faithfully for Jesus.



Every child should feel...

- Longing within their soul for the King.
- Dissatisfied by the things of the world.
- Awe and wonder that the King has come and is coming again.



Every child should strive to...

- Wait with purpose for the return of Christ.
- Memorize the Bible Verse each week.
- Tell someone else about the King who has come and is coming again.



Every child should want...

- Trust Christ in the everyday struggles of life.
- See and seek Jesus more than anything else this Christmas season.
- Tell others who are lost about the good news of the King.

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DISCOVER IT:

Revelation 22:10-21; 1 Peter 4:7; Luke 21:34-36

THINK ABOUT IT:

In Revelation 22, John is sharing the vision that God gave him of the new heavens and the new earth. In it, Jesus promises that He is coming soon. He will judge each one for the deeds that they have done, because He is holy and righteous. Those who have trusted in Jesus have His righteousness as their own and will enter into the kingdom of heaven. Those who love and practice lies will not enter into the kingdom of heaven. In John's vision, he says that the Spirit and the Bride, which is the church, say "Come." Anyone who desires Christ as their Lord and Savior will have Him, and can take of the water of life without price. It is a gift of grace freely given. The book of Revelation, and the whole Bible, ends with Jesus saying again, "Surely, I am coming soon." John finishes with, "Amen" which means "Let it be! Come, Lord Jesus," and then he reminds us of the grace that Jesus brings. While we wait for Christ's return, we wait with prayers, saying to our Savior, "Come!"

TALK ABOUT IT:

- Why do we pray while we wait for Christ's return? (Prayer sustains and empowers us while we wait.)
- Why does it matter that we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!"? (Praying this prayer helps us to believe that Jesus is coming soon.)



Memorize 1 Peter 4:7 as a family. Put it on a posterboard on your wall, or somewhere throughout your house where you will see it regularly. Every time you see it, stop and say the verse out loud until you have it memorized.



Make a prayer calendar for the upcoming year as a family. Choose one thing, or one Bible verse, that you will pray each month. Talk about how even though you can't put "Jesus' return" on the calendar, your family can still pray the prayer that John prays in Revelation, "Come, Lord Jesus!"



As a family, spend time in prayer every day. Begin to build up the habit of talking to God consistently, giving Him adoration and praise, confessing sins, being thankful, and making your requests known to Him.



Read Revelation 21 and 22 together as a family. You can do this in one sitting, or spread out throughout the week. Talk with your children about what the new creation will be like. Share with them about how you long for Jesus to return.