

# JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH PURPOSE

ADVENT - REMEMBER TO ANTICIPATE

## BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH PURPOSE

Titus 2:11-14; Leviticus 19:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; Jude 21; 1 Corinthians 1:7

## BIBLE VERSE: 2 PETER 3:11-12A

*"Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God..."*

## BIG IDEAS

- Waiting for Christ's return reveals God's patience toward us.
- Jesus followers are diligent to live holy lives.
- Jesus followers wait well for Christ's appearing by waiting on mission.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: HEBREWS 9:24-28; 2 PETER 3:8-18

## 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!

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student 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 student 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 student 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 student 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.

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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## BIBLE VERSE: 2 PETER 3:11-12A

*"Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God..."*

### **This world is coming to an end.**

*"Since all these things are thus to be dissolved..."*

- Just as God created the world, He has also promised a new creation. The first heaven and the first earth will pass away, and there will be a new heaven and a new earth where God dwells with His people and sin is no more.
- This earth has been broken and corrupted by sin, and it is not meant to endure forever. When we put our hope in things that are on this earth, we are hoping in something that will fail us, because it will not last.

### **In this life, we are called to be holy and godly.**

*"...what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness ..."*

- Because this earth will not last forever, we have limited days to point people to the coming kingdom of Christ.
- God has set His people apart from the world, and so God calls His people to be holy as He is holy, living lives that are set apart and distinct from the world around them. We are called to be like Him.

### **Jesus is coming again.**

*"...waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God."*

- Our holiness and godliness are not ends unto themselves. The end, the goal that we are moving toward, is that there is a coming day of God. Christ will return, He will judge the living and the dead (Acts 10:42; 2 Timothy 4:1), and His people will reign with Him (Rev 20:6).
- Because Jesus is coming again, we do not have time to waste. Every day matters, and we will give an account for how we have spent the time that God has given us. We should not act as if this life is all that there is, and then when we are old decide to begin faithfully following Jesus. If God has opened our eyes to see our Savior now, we must live in light of that reality every day.

# JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH PURPOSE

## BIG IDEA #1: WAITING FOR CHRIST'S RETURN REVEALS GOD'S PATIENCE TOWARD US.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

2 Peter 3 reminds us that earthly things are “thus to be dissolved.” This world is coming to an end, and judgment will come. The fact that Jesus has not yet returned is evidence of His patience toward us. John 5:24 tells us that those who hear Christ's words and believe in the Father who sent Jesus will have eternal life. This person will not come into judgment, but will come from death to life. The Father's patience is to allow His people to repent of their sins and to respond to Christ in obedience and faith.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**In your testimony of coming to faith in Jesus, what evidence do you see of God working in your life?**

Job 42:2 tells us that God can do all things, and that nothing He has purposed to do can be stopped. Psalm 135:6 reminds us that God does all that He pleases. There is nothing outside of His sovereign control. In our lives and our testimonies, nothing happens by accident. He sends people into our lives to share the good news of the gospel with us. He brings conviction and realization of sin. Romans 2:4 reminds us that it is His kindness that draws us to repentance. Ephesians 2:4 says that it is God who makes us alive in Him. As you consider evidence of God's sovereignty, patience, and kindness to you, let these realities lead you to worship.

### [ THIS ]

Waiting can often be difficult for us. We are impatient people who want instant gratification. However, we can wait eagerly for Christ's return because He is patient with us. Waiting pushes us to be more like Jesus, because it forces us to be less self-centered, to be focused on others, and to be humble. It is more of a challenge to feel prideful when we consider something that is totally outside of our control, such as Christ's return. It is difficult to be selfish when we think of all the people around us who are hopeless without a Savior. It is hard to be impatient when we remember that God's timing is perfect, and His delay in coming again is evidence of His patience toward us. He is using our time of waiting to shape us to be more like Him.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How have you seen that you are more like Jesus now than you were a year ago?**

Romans 8:29 tells us that those who are in Christ are predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus. This process is called sanctification, where the Holy Spirit works in us to make us to be more like Jesus. While this process is not linear, and we still constantly wrestle against sin, by God's grace when we look back over our lives of following Jesus, we will be able to see ways that we have grown to be more like Him.

**Where do you need to grow to be more like Jesus?**

It is a gift of grace in our lives that we would see ways that we still need to grow. When we are convicted of sin, we can confess and repent and begin to pursue holiness in that area. While we are still waiting for the return of Christ, we should be diligent to consider ways that we need to grow in our pursuit of Him.

1. 2 Peter 3:9: God's timing is not our timing. He is patient towards us because He desires that all would be saved and come to repentance.

# JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH PURPOSE

## BIG IDEA #2: JESUS FOLLOWERS ARE DILIGENT TO LIVE HOLY LIVES.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Hebrews 9:28 says that Christ has appeared once to bear our sins and will appear a second time to complete the salvation of those who are eagerly waiting for Him. Waiting is not passive, and it does not mean we sit around, twiddle our thumbs, and do nothing while we wait for something else to happen. 2 Peter 3:14 reminds us that we are to be diligent to be found without blemish and at peace. Biblical, faithful waiting is purposeful. Biblical, faithful waiting sees the time that we have as a gift and makes the best use of it, as Ephesians 5:16 reminds us. Hebrews 9 and 10 tell us that biblical waiting is eager, draws near, holds fast the confession of our hope, and stirs up our brothers and sisters in Christ.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**What does diligence mean? What should it look like in our daily lives?**

2 Peter 1 tells us to “make every effort” to supplement our faith and to “be all the more diligent” to confirm our calling. Diligence is an active, intentional pursuit of a goal. We are diligent when we do not get distracted, when we make intentional decisions in light of our goal, and when we work hard to pursue our goal. For the Jesus follower, out of the grace that we already have received in Christ, we wait diligently for His return.

**How should we wait eagerly?**

Hebrews 10 gives us several examples of how we are to live while we wait for Christ’s return. 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 gives us a picture of waiting that is repentance and serving. In this life, we wait eagerly when we turn away from idols and devote our time to serving the Lord.

### [ THIS ]

Even though Jesus followers should be diligent, our effort is not aimless. It must be concentrated on the goal that God has given us, which is to be holy as He is holy (Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16). It is important for us to know that our diligence is not to earn favor with God, but rather it flows out of the grace and mercy that we have already received. If we love God, while we are waiting for Him, we will keep His commands. Our obedience is not to earn His love, but because He has first loved us and our love for Him overflows, as John 14:15 reminds us. Second, we are diligent to live holy lives because God has set us apart to be holy as His people. We pursue being what Christ has declared us to be.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**What barriers to living a holy life are you currently fighting against?**

We are constantly tempted and distracted away from holiness by our sin and by the schemes of the devil. Ephesians 6:10-18 speaks to the armor of God that helps us fight to stand firm. Truth, righteousness, readiness from the gospel, faith, salvation, and the Word all help us in our daily battle against sin.

2. 1 Peter 1:15-17 tells us that we should be holy in all of our conduct, because God who has called us is holy.

# JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH PURPOSE

## BIG IDEA #3: JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WELL FOR CHRIST'S APPEARING BY WAITING ON MISSION.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Our purpose is determined for us as Christ followers: we are His witnesses. There are many people who will live purposeful and intentional lives to their own glory, and as Matthew 7:23 warns us, on the last day Jesus will say to them, "Depart from me, I never knew you." Even those who do good works but do them disobeying the commands of the Lord will not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Acts 1:8 tells us what our purpose as Christ followers is to be. We are His witnesses throughout all of the earth. This means that we will talk about Him and will tell others about Him.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **What does it mean to be a witness for Christ?**

To be a witness for Christ means that we will proclaim to others what we have seen and know about Him. Just as a witness in a courtroom is able to testify that something is true, we testify that Jesus brings new life to His people and that He is coming again. In Deuteronomy 6, God tells His people Israel that they should talk about truths about Him when they sit in their houses, when they walk by the way, when they lie down at night, and when they rise up in the morning. This is a way to say that they should be talking about God's truths all the time, throughout all of life. We wait well for Christ's appearing when we are a people who talk about God's truths.

### [ THIS ]

Our purpose is to proclaim Christ's kingdom, not our own. Naturally, we want to live for our own kingdoms. To be a Jesus follower, we must repent of this, turn away from it, and turn toward God. We surrender to live for His kingdom as we were created to do. To live on mission means that we will proclaim this truth to others. We will tell them that God is good and that He has made a way for us to be restored out of the brokenness of sin. We will lead them to respond in repentance and faith. We will help them see the ways that they can grow in following Jesus. Living with purpose means living for Christ's kingdom and being committed to sharing this truth with others.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **What makes you the most nervous about sharing the gospel?**

There are many barriers that we may struggle to overcome in sharing the gospel. Fear is one of the most common of these, despite exhortations throughout Scripture not to be afraid. We may struggle with fear of man and worrying what others will think about us, fear of rejection or broken relationships, or fear of looking foolish if we do not have all the right answers. However, we must remember that it is God who does the work of salvation (1 Corinthians 3:7). 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us that we can live faithfully because God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of love and power and self-control.

#### **How does knowing that Christ is coming again give us an urgency in living on mission?**

2 Peter 3:9 tells us that it is because of God's patience toward us that Jesus has not yet returned. We should not take this patience for granted, but should actively pursue sharing the good news with others, praying that the Lord would bring them to repentance of their sins and faith in Him. Knowing that Jesus is returning gives us a sense of urgency to share with others, because we do not want anyone to spend eternity separated from God in their sin.

3. In Acts 1:8, Christ followers are commissioned to be His witnesses throughout all of the earth.