

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!

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.

JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH PURPOSE

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: WAITING FOR CHRIST'S RETURN REVEALS GOD'S PATIENCE TOWARD US.¹

God is patient with His people.

- Naturally, we do not like to wait.
- We like it when we get what we want as soon as we want it.
- We are a naturally impatient people.
- God is perfectly patient.
- Everything happens according to His perfect timing and His perfect plan.

God waiting to return is evidence of His patience.

- God is not waiting to return because He is waiting for His people to straighten up their lives before He comes.
- He is waiting to return to give us more opportunity to experience His grace and mercy toward us on this earth.
- He is giving us more opportunity to share the gospel with others.
- He is patient with us, allowing us to continue to live here to bring honor and glory to Him.

God is making His people more like Jesus while they wait for Him.²

- Sanctification is the process where God makes His people to be more like Him, to be holy.
- When we follow Jesus, He constantly is working in us.
- He makes us aware of our sin and He brings us to repentance of our sin.
- His Spirit works in us to bear good fruit.³



Have the children line up against the wall on one side of the room. Tell them you want them to run to the other side of the room when you say go but they have to wait. Set a timer for 30 seconds and count it down for them out loud then say go! Line them up again and do the same thing but don't count down for them, have them wait not knowing how much time is left before you say go! Remind them that even though we get impatient, God is patient with us. This is why Jesus has not yet returned.

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.
 2. Romans 8:29: For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
 3. Galatians 5:22-23 describe the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH PURPOSE

BIG IDEA: JESUS FOLLOWERS ARE DILIGENT TO LIVE HOLY LIVES.⁴

To be diligent means to work hard towards a specific goal.

- To be diligent means to make every effort. We cannot be lazy and diligent at the same time.
- We will be diligent not in order to earn God's favor, but because we know that He has already chosen us, saved us, and called us to a holy calling.
- In response to what God has done, we strive to be obedient and faithful to Him.



Play a game of keepy uppy with a balloon- don't let it touch the ground! Tell them they had to work hard at keeping the balloon up in the air. As Jesus followers, we should be diligent and should work hard at being holy as God is holy.

Following Jesus is active, not passive.

- Following Jesus is not just about praying a prayer one day or going to church on a Sunday morning.
- Following Jesus is about a lifetime of obedience to Him, of turning from our sin, and trusting in Him.
- While our salvation is something that God does in us, and our sanctification is a work that God completes in us, we do not just lie around waiting and doing whatever we please until that happens. We are active and purposeful in our pursuit of Christ.

Jesus followers work hard to pursue holiness.

- Jesus followers chase after holiness because God is holy and we want to be like Him.
- Holiness is perfection, being set apart, unlike anything or anyone else.
- Holiness means that we are unstained and uncorrupted by sin.
- To pursue holiness in this life means to cast off the old self that is enslaved to sin, and to put on the new self that is clothed in Christ.

4. 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: JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WELL FOR CHRIST'S APPEARING BY WAITING ON MISSION.⁵

Our purpose is determined for us as Jesus followers.

- Following Jesus means dying to ourselves.
- This also means dying to our own goals and purposes for our lives.
- Instead of following our heart and its wicked desires, we follow God and His Word.
- Instead of living for ourselves and our own pleasure, we live to make much of Jesus.

Jesus followers are to live as witnesses for Christ.

- To be a witness for someone means to proclaim truth about what you have seen.
- To be a witness for Christ means you talk about what you know and have experienced about Him.
- We can do this when we share truth from His Word with others.
- We can do this when we share with others about things that God has done in our lives and in our families.



Play a game that helps the children learn what it means to be a witness. Have one of the adults close their eyes. Do a dance move or strike a pose in front of the room. Then ask the children to explain to the adult who had their eyes closed what to do to mimic you. They were able to know what you had done because they had witnesses who were telling them what had happened. When we live on mission, we live as witnesses of Jesus.

Waiting faithfully means telling others about the good news of the gospel.

- When we have good news, we naturally want to share it with others.
- This is how we should be with the good news of the gospel. We should not be able to hold it in.
- Instead, we share it freely with others because we also want them to know the hope that is in Christ Jesus.

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