

Be
Ready
FOR
JESUS'
RETURN!



Be Ready for Jesus' Return

Coming in the Clouds

Text: Acts 1:11

Have your children stand and help you with the story by using actions.

Say: Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Then He rose from the dead! He was alive again! After being with his friends for several days, it was time for Him to go back to heaven. He went up in the clouds, and his disciples watched him go. They stared into the sky as he went up. Can you make your clouds go up?

Have the kids slowly move their arm and hands up as high as they can. Let them pretend their hands are clouds in the sky.

Say: After awhile an angel appeared. The angel asked the disciples why they were still looking up into the sky. The angel said that Jesus would one day come back – just like He went away. He will one day come back down from the clouds. Can you make your clouds come back down?

Have the kids slowly move their arms and hands down as low as they can. They can even lie down on the floor to get their clouds to the lowest possible point.

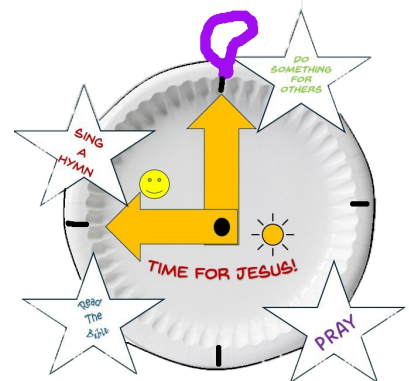
Say: Has Jesus come back yet? No, he hasn't! But He could come back any time! He could come back today or tomorrow or the next day. We don't know when He will come back. No one knows when He will come back except God. So, what do we do while we wait for Jesus to come back? We tell others about Him! We tell others that Jesus loves them and died for them! Let's make our hands into the shape of a heart to remind us to tell people that Jesus loves them!



Show the kids how to put their fingers into the shape of a heart. Have them hold their heart-shaped hands up as you say a quick prayer, asking God to help each person tell someone else that Jesus loves them!

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 24:42,
“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.”



Get Attention

As your kids arrive, involve them in creating a clock craft.

Gather:

- Paper plate
- Scissors
- Markers/Crayons
- Glue and/or tape
- String, pipe cleaners, glitter, decorations

Procedure:

1. Cut out paper to resemble the hands of a clock. Optional: cut several star shapes as well.
2. Add verses and captions. Use a star theme or time theme.
3. Add clock hands using a brad fastener (or glue if preferred).
4. Add more decorations. Use yarn for hanging.





Clock—Object Lesson

Show students your clock, set to a certain time.

Ask, Can anyone tell me what time my clock says? Do any of you ever use clocks? What for? Do you ever use a clock to know what time you have to leave for school or for church?

Say: Let's pretend that you're getting ready for church in the morning. What time do you have to leave your house to get here in time? Okay. So when the clock says __, you know you have to be ready. What are the things you have to do to get ready? That's a lot of stuff you have to do by __ to be ready to leave.



There's also something else that we need to get ready for. It's Jesus' return. Did you know that Jesus is going to come back to earth one day? And we need to be ready for Him when He comes.

The problem (*unplug your clock or turn it around*) is that we don't know what time He'll be here. We don't even know what day or year He's coming back. (Read Matthew 24:36 and 42.) *"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father... Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come."*

Jesus says that He will come at a time when we don't expect Him. It will be a surprise. But we're supposed to be ready for Him whenever He comes. How can we be ready for Jesus to come back if we don't know when He's coming? All we have to do to be ready is to keep believing in Him and doing the right things that He asked us to do.

