

LESSON 5
THE SECOND ADVENT

LESSON AT A GLANCE

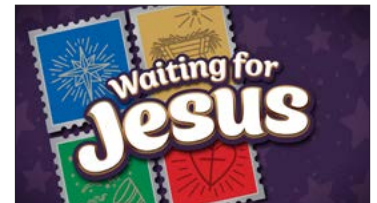
WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Will Return**SCRIPTURE:** John 14; 1 Thessalonians 4**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Like God's people long ago, we wait for the arrival of Jesus. However, we wait for Jesus' second coming and have the Holy Spirit with us as we wait. Jesus will return, and one day we will see Him face to face!**WORD OF WONDER:** Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.
—Hebrews 11:1

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: What day are you looking forward to most in the next year?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary & Preteen Responding in Worship: Plant and Wait

[Waiting for Jesus Elem Spotify playlist](#)

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Will Return

SCRIPTURE: John 14; 1 Thessalonians 4

WORD OF WONDER: Hebrews 11:1

My family almost left me at an amusement park when I was a boy. A miscommunication about where I should meet my dad led to me wandering around crying. Meanwhile, my dad got all the way to the parking lot before realizing I wasn't with my mom. After my initial panic, a deep hope welled up inside me as I was looking for my family. I remembered the exact spot where my dad and I parted ways. And something told me that my dad would never really leave me, and eventually he would return to that specific spot. So, I made my way back and stood in that spot ... and waited. After what felt like days, I felt a familiar bear-paw-sized hand on my shoulder. Instant relief.

My dad loves me. He knew the way back to where I was. He would really never leave me. He came back. And when he came back, all my fear melted. Everything was alright again.

Read John 14:1–3 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18. It was quite the journey to wait for Jesus to come as Messiah the first time. Now, after witnessing all that Jesus said and did, we wait again for Him.

This time we wait with the certainty that Jesus has kept every promise and is powerful over even sin and death! We wait, remembering that Jesus loves us and has held nothing back to be with us. We wait, knowing that Jesus *will* return, and when He does, everything will be alright, forever.

—Matt Irvine

Pastor and Editor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Since the very beginning, Jesus has been with God; Jesus is God! Jesus was God's answer to redeem the broken world. Jesus came as a human to show us what God is like and to die for our sins. And Jesus the King is coming back to take us to be with Him.

WHAT?

Jesus is preparing a place for us; He will return and take us to be with Him. This is called the second advent (or second appearance). God is with us now through the Holy Spirit, and one day, we will be with Jesus physically.

WHERE?

Heaven is God's dwelling space where He exercises complete authority and is in all and over all. When Jesus returns, God's people will dwell with Him in the renewed creation where all of God's people will enjoy His presence without shadow or fear (Revelation 21:22–26).

WHEN?

The fulfillment of God's plan is the advent of Jesus and the renewal of all things. We don't know the day or the hour, but we do know that Jesus will come down and take all His followers to be with God forever.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

In Scripture, we see the triune God active in the creation of the world. God is three persons but still one God: Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit. We have the Holy Spirit with us as we wait for the physical return of Jesus who will take us to be with the Father.

LESSON 5 **ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN**

Small Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Will Return

SCRIPTURE: John 14; 1 Thessalonians 4

WORD OF WONDER: Hebrews 11:1

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils, board games or games

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

As kids arrive ...

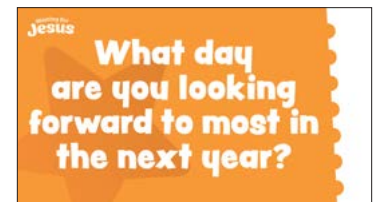
Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious"

questions to engage kids. Say "**I'm curious..**" before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **Who would you be excited to see if you knew they were coming to town soon?**
- **What are some traditions you or your family do while you're waiting for something special?**
(If needed, give ideas such as counting down the days to Christmas or going to bed early the night before your birthday.)



Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.

—Hebrews 11:1 (NIRV)

SUPPLIES: Bible

We can live with hope and confidence because we know that Jesus will return! Let's practice our Word of Wonder together. Open your Bible to Hebrews 11:1. Practice the verse with the kids by reading it several times together.

Gather the kids in a circle. Explain that one person will stand up and say the verse once. Then they will point to someone else in the circle. That person will then stand up and recite the verse before pointing to another kid, who will then do the same. Continue until everyone has had a chance to say the verse.

Make It Inclusive: Rather than have kids say the verse by themselves, have kids pair up. Partners can stand and say the verse together before pointing to another pair to go next.

Leader Tip: For Preteens. Invite kids to create motions for each word or phrase. Whoever they point to after they're done will try to repeat the same motions. To make it more challenging, the motions don't necessarily have to mimic what the word is. For example, clap your hands or touch your head on a particular word.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), sticky notes (2 per kid, optional)

Say you will be reading two passages from the New Testament. Invite them to turn to John 14 and 1 Thessalonians 4. They can hold their place with their fingers or a sticky note.

In John 14, Jesus is preparing His disciples for what is coming next. He knows His death is near, and He wants to comfort them. Jesus promises that He is going to prepare a place for them and that He will return to bring them to be with Him. In 1 Thessalonians, Paul later writes to encourage believers who were worried about what happens when Christians die. As you read both passages, think about how these promises give hope during times of fear and sadness.

PASSAGE: John 14:1–3 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Elementary Questions

- **Who is preparing a home for us in heaven?** *(Jesus)*
- **What happened when Jesus came to earth as a baby? What will it be like the second time He comes?** *(Possible answer: When Jesus came as a baby, He was wrapped in clothes and placed in a manger, and shepherds came and worshiped Him. When Jesus returns, He will come down from heaven, we will hear a trumpet blast, and He will take His friends to be with Him.)*
- **What are some things you can do when you are physically with a friend that you can't do over the phone or on a video chat?**
- **Imagine being face to face with Jesus. What do you think you will do when you see Him? What do you think He will do or say?**
- **What do you think it means to follow Jesus?**
- **Followers of Jesus get to be with Him forever! How does that make you feel?**

Jesus promises to prepare a place for everyone who follows Him. While He is preparing a place for us, we can wait excitedly for Him, learn about Him, worship Him, and tell others about Him! Let's talk with Jesus now in prayer.

Leader Tip: Kids learn in God's big story today that Jesus will return and take His followers to be with Him forever. This is a great opportunity to share with kids what it means to follow Jesus! Consider referring to the Salvation Path resource and inviting your ministry leader and kids' parents into this meaningful conversation.

Preteen Questions

- **What do you think it means to follow Jesus?**
- **When Jesus returns, His followers will be with Him physically. Imagine being face to face with Jesus. What do you think you will do when you see Him? What do you think He will do or say?**
- **For followers of Jesus, death is not the end of the story! Why is that?** *(Jesus-followers will rise and greet Jesus with joy when He returns. They will be with Him forever!)*
- **During this series, we've been learning about how people long ago waited for Jesus to arrive the first time. What can we do while we wait for Jesus to return?**
- **Think of some friends or family members who might not be followers of Jesus yet. What can we do to help them know that God loves them and wants to live forever with them too?**
- **What can we do when we begin to feel worried or upset while we wait for Jesus?**

Jesus promises to prepare a place for everyone who follows Him. While He is preparing a place for us, we can wait excitedly for Him, learn about Him, worship Him, and tell others about Him! Let's talk with Jesus now in prayer.

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! God hears all our prayers! Encourage them to pray silently or out loud, thanking God for sending Jesus and for the promise that He will return.

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

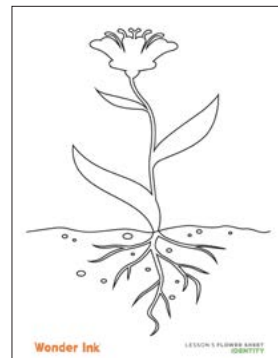
Responding in Worship: Plant and Wait

SUPPLIES: table or tarp, disposable cups (1 per kid), flower seeds (1 per kid), potting soil (in bag or large bucket), coloring utensils (optional), paper (1 sheet per kid, optional)

RESOURCES: Flower Sheet (1 per kid, optional), [Waiting for Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, set up an area where kids can fill cups with potting soil, such as on a table or tarp spread out on the floor. Set out a bag or bucket of potting soil.

Sometimes when we know something beautiful and amazing is coming, it's hard to wait patiently for it. Have you ever planted a seed and then sat and watched it, waiting for it to grow into a beautiful flower? Pause for kids to respond. **What can we do to get ready for the flower to bloom?** Allow kids time to respond. **Yes, we can water it and make sure it has enough sunlight!**



Give each kid a disposable cup and a flower seed. **Let's take turns filling our cups with soil and carefully burying our seeds in the soil. While you are planting your flower, think about how exciting it will be when Jesus returns, and thank Him that He is coming back for us. Later you can take your flower home and wait patiently for it to bloom. As you wait, remember how we are waiting excitedly for Jesus and that He will return for all of His friends—people who love and follow Him!**

If it's not feasible for kids to plant seeds in cups, use one of these ideas: 1. Hand out the Flower Sheet to each kid and invite them to color it as they think about how exciting it will be when Jesus returns. 2. Hold up a single seed without telling kids what kind of seed it is. (Even an apple seed works!) Ask the kids to imagine what the seed, when planted, could grow into. Then have them draw and color a picture of what they think could grow from the seed.

Play songs from the [Waiting for Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#) while kids are planting seeds, coloring, or drawing.

- **Jesus will return! We don't know when, but we know He will. What are some things we can do to prepare for Him?**
- **Think about a difficult situation you're facing. How can knowing Jesus will return impact how you think about this situation? How can it impact how you respond to it?**
- **Now think about something really positive and happy in your life. How does knowing Jesus will return impact how you think about this?**
- **Imagine Jesus sitting in the seat of honor at our table. What expression do you think He would have on His face? What do you think He would say to you? What would you say to Him?**