

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 16

For Kids

Jesus' Second Coming and Your Future

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)



Say: Last week we learned what the Bible teaches about the subject of death. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did to bring comfort to someone who has lost a loved one in death.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** Jesus is coming soon to take them to heaven
- **Feel** sure of their future with Jesus
- **Respond** by trusting Jesus to keep His word

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Divide the participants into pairs. Give each pair a coin, a piece of paper and a pencil. One person is to call “heads” or “tails.” The other person is to toss the coin then record whether or not the caller’s prediction was correct. Repeat for a total of 10 tosses then exchange roles for another 10 tosses.

You need

- Coins, one for each pair of participants
- One sheet of note paper for each pair
- Pens/pencils

Debrief

Ask: How well did you predict the future? (Acknowledge answers.) By the laws of probabilities you should have called about half of the coin tosses correctly. When you think about predicting your own future, what do you hope for? (Acknowledge answers.) What do you think God wants for your future? (Acknowledge answers.)

Say: One thing we can know about our future is that Jesus has a plan for it. Let’s discover what that plan is.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board: **Jesus wants us to be with Him forever.**

Bible Discovery

Write on the board: What the Bible teaches about the future

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called on.

You need

- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families as they arrive. Be sure to include the number reference on each one.

Write the following chart on the board:

Second Coming	Millennium	New Earth

As you go through each of the texts in the Bible Discovery, place the “**Write on the board**” summaries listed on the chart as follows: numbers 1-3 under “Second Coming;” numbers 4-6 under “Millennium;” numbers 7-8 under “New Earth.” Place number 9 under the chart.

- 1 Read John 14:1-3.** What did Jesus promise His followers? (That He was going to prepare a place for them in His Father's house; that He would come back to get them to take them there.)

Say: Before Jesus returned to Heaven, He promised to prepare a place in heaven for His followers then come back to earth to get them.

Write on the board: Jesus will come again

- 2 Read Revelation 1:7.** Who will see Jesus when He returns? (Everyone; those who killed Him; all the people on the earth.)

Say: Jesus' return will not be a secret.

Write on the board: Every person on earth will see Jesus come

- 3 Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.** What will happen when Jesus returns? (He will give a loud command and the dead in Christ will be resurrected; those who are alive will meet them in the air and they will all go with Jesus to heaven.)

Say: Those people who died believing in Jesus will be resurrected when they hear Jesus' call to them. Jesus' followers who are alive when He comes will be translated — this means that they will go to heaven without dying.

Write on the board: Jesus will take every person who believes in Him to heaven

- 4 Read Revelation 20:1-6.** What will happen to Satan? (He will be chained for 1,000 years.)

Write on the board: Satan will be bound for 1,000 years

Ask: What will the saints be doing for 1,000 years? (They will reign with Christ and will judge.)

Write on the board: God's people will reign with Jesus and judge the wicked

Say: We call this thousand year period the millennium. During this time Satan and his angels will have no one to tempt because the righteous are in heaven and the wicked are all dead. For 1,000 years Satan will think about what he has done in fighting against God and in bringing misery and suffering to the world. In heaven, the righteous will be reviewing God's records. They will review the actions of the wicked and know that Jesus' blood cannot save them because they chose to reject His salvation.

- 5 Read Revelation 20:7-9.** What happens at the end of the millennium? (Satan is released and gathers the wicked to battle God one last time. Fire comes down from heaven and destroys them all.)

Write on the board: Satan and all sinners will be destroyed

- 6 Read Nahum 1:9.** What does this verse say the Lord will bring to an end? (Whatever they plot against Him.) What will not come a second time? (Trouble.) Why do you think it is important for everyone to review the entire history of Satan's warfare against God? (So that sin will never happen again.)

Say: At the end of the 1,000 years, everyone will know the consequences of sin. They will understand clearly that sin is rebellion against God, that it causes suffering, sorrow and death. No one will ever want to sin again.

Write on the board: Sin will never happen again

- 7 Read Revelation 21:1-4.** What will happen once God has taken care of all sin and all sinners? (God will create a new earth; He will remove all sorrow and pain; God will dwell with the human family on the new earth.)

Write on the board: God will make a new earth and dwell forever with His people

- 8 Read Revelation 22:1-5.** From this description of the new earth, what do you think will be the best thing about being there? (Being able to see Jesus face to face.)

Write on the board: We will see Jesus face to face

- 9** In Matthew 24 Jesus said, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come....so you also must be ready. **Read 1 John 2:28.** What do we need to do to be ready for the future that Jesus has prepared for us? (Continue in Him.) What do you think this means? (Staying connected to Jesus.)

Write on the board: We can be ready by staying connected to Jesus

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What can you tell me about the second coming... the millennium... the new earth?"
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly one reason that you are looking forward to Jesus' Second Coming and being with Him in heaven.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



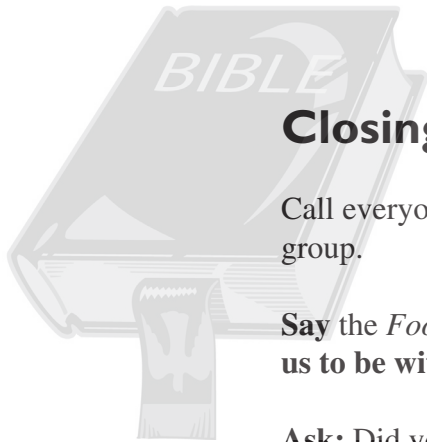
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to be with Him forever.**

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Ask: Did you think of a way to show Jesus that you are excited that He is coming again?

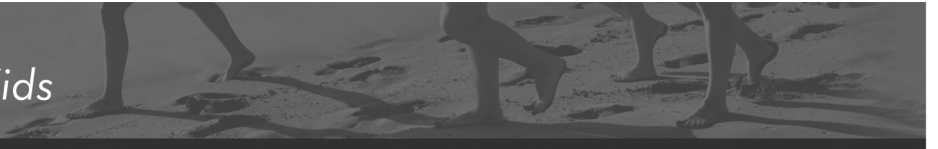
Grace Point — Say: Next week I will ask you to share with us what you did to show Jesus you are excited that He is coming again.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for His promise to come again and take us to live with Him forever

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

FOOTPRINTS *For Kids*



My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to be with Him forever.**
2. Parents/mentors **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

1. Jesus will come again John 14:1-3
2. Every person on earth will see Jesus come Revelation 7:1
3. Those dead in Christ will be resurrected and go to heaven 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17
4. Those alive in Christ will go to heaven 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17
5. Satan will be bound for 1,000 years Revelation 20:1-6
6. God’s people will reign with Jesus and judge the wicked Revelation 20:1-6
7. Satan and all sinners will be destroyed Revelation 20:7-9
8. Sin will never happen again Nahum 1:9 (b)
9. God will make a new earth and dwell forever with His people Revelation 21:1-4
10. We will see Jesus face to face Revelation 22:1-5
11. We can be ready for Jesus’ coming by staying connected to Him 1 John 2:28

3. Parents/mentors **Share** one reason that you are looking forward to Jesus’ second coming.
Ask: What do you most look forward to when Jesus comes?
4. **THE CHOICE — Ask:** Do you want to show Jesus that you are excited that He is coming soon to take us all to heaven? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** together telling Jesus how excited you are that He will come to take you to heaven with Him.

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to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Ask:** Is there anything about the events of the future that makes you feel afraid or worried?
2. **Review 1 John 2:28. Discuss** what your family can do to be ready for Jesus to come.
3. **Brainstorm** for ways to show Jesus that you are excited that He is coming soon to take you to heaven, such as share the good news with someone else, use music to praise Him, etc.

Ideas

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Grace Point — Next week you will be asked to share with us what you did to show Jesus you are excited that He is coming again.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share an experience of encouraging another church member or of having another church member encourage you. What difference did this support make? Where did you see Jesus at work in this experience?

Jesus' Second Coming and Your Future

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 16

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Isaiah 65:17

Activity: Take a walk with your family and look for signs that this earth is aging. Do you see things like pollution, loud noises, hungry animals and poor people?

For Discussion: “It will be so wonderful when Jesus comes back because He will make this earth new over again,” said Emma Rose, a fourth-grader. “It won’t be old anymore. The best part is that there won’t be any sin. We don’t have any idea what it will be like to live on an earth with no sin!” What things about this earth show that it is getting old? Emma Rose is excited about living on an earth without sin. What most excites you about the earth made new?

Prayer Point: Pray that God will help you find ways to care for this earth and do your part to protect it from further aging. Praise God for His promise of a new earth.

Choice Two

Scripture: John 14:1-3

Activity: Memorize this Scripture. As you are learning it, write it on nice paper in your best handwriting and hang it where others in your family can see it.

For Discussion: Do you know anyone who worries when they think about Jesus coming again? Do you sometimes worry? What do you worry about? Why?

Prayer Point: Thank God for the wonderful promise He has given us in John 14:1-3. If you have any worries, confess them to Him and tell Him that you place your trust in Him.

Choice Three

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:9

Activity: Create a list of things you look forward to in your future school projects? or field trips? Vacation? College? Marriage and a family?

For Discussion: Sometimes kids say they don't want Jesus to come yet because they want a chance to grow up, get married, etc. Have you ever felt that way? What do you think when you hear that God has created something so wonderful for us we can't even imagine it? Is it wrong to look forward to your future here on earth? Do you think older people seem more eager than younger people for Jesus to come? Why or why not?

Prayer Point: Thank God for creating a future for us that is so awesome we can't even begin to imagine it.

Choice Four

Scripture: Matthew 24:27, 30, 31; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

Activity: Close your eyes and imagine that Jesus is returning to earth. What do you see? Hear? Feel?

For Discussion: What for you is the most exciting part of Jesus' second coming? Is it seeing a loved one who has died? Floating up in the clouds to meet Him? Something else?

Prayer Point: Tell Jesus what excites you most about His second coming. Ask Him to come quickly to take you home to live with Him.

Choice Five

Scripture: Isaiah 65:17-25; Revelation 21:1-4

Activity: Draw a picture of what you imagine the new earth to be like. Who is there? What are they doing?

For Discussion: What about the Scriptures you read today makes you want to praise God? Is there anything you need to confess to God?

Prayer Point: Thank God for the wonderful future He has planned for you.