



Lesson 2 -Hope

Be Prepared!

2 Timothy 3:1-5; 4:1-5, 7, 8

Bible Focus

Many people will live ungodly lives in the last days.

Life Focus

Continue to live a godly life as an example to others.

Growing Up in the Word: Matthew 24:36, 42, 44

Set up one or both of the following activities to do as students arrive. Greet the students by name, explain the activities, and invite students to participate.

Memory Activity 1

Supplies

Bibles, index cards, marker

Before class, write two-word phrases of the Bible memory passage on separate index cards. Make three or four sets so the students can be divided into teams for the activity. Mix up the cards in each set.

Have students find Matthew 24:36, 42, 44 in their Bibles. Ask volunteers to read aloud the verses. Divide the students into teams and give each team a set of the cards. Give the students time to arrange the words of the memory passage in order. Then shuffle the cards and tell the students that they will race this time. Set them up to begin the race, then stop the count by giving an excuse why you or one of the students isn't ready. For example, say, **Get ready, get set, oh, wait, I need to tie my shoe.** Continue like this until the students are frustrated. Some other excuses could be: a card is missing, students are holding the cards in the wrong hand, teams are even/uneven, the room is too cold/hot, someone is thirsty, and so forth. Finally, let the students race to put the passage in order.

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- **What made this race rather difficult?** (*It took forever to get started. Some people didn't know the verse. Too many people working at the same time caused confusion.*)

Our Bible memory passage tells us to be ready because we don't know the day or the hour that Jesus will come back to earth. You all were ready to start this race, but you began to wonder if it would ever get started! I noticed that some of you remained ready until the race actually began. Some of you lost interest because it took so long to get the game going. While we're waiting for Jesus to return, we can let other things take our focus off the fact that He is coming back. That's why we're warned to be ready. Our lesson today warns us not to let the sins of the world cause us to lose interest in Jesus' return.

Memory Activity 2

Supplies

Bibles, masking tape, roll paper, scissors, markers, clear tape, cotton balls, straws

Before class, cut a piece of roll paper 6" wide x 4' in length for each student. Use masking tape to mark a starting line for this activity.

Guide students to find Matthew 24:36, 42, 44 in their Bibles. Ask volunteers to read aloud the verses.

Give each student a piece of roll paper and a marker. Ask the students to write the Bible memory passage on their papers. When everyone is finished, have the students line up shoulder-to-shoulder along the masking tape starting line. Each student should tape one end of her paper strip to the starting line, stretch out the strip of paper, and tape down the other end of the paper.

Give each student a cotton ball and a straw. The object of the game is for students to use the straw to blow the cotton ball to the end of the paper strip without having the cotton ball leave the paper strip. If the cotton ball goes off the paper, the student must return to the starting line and begin again.

After the game, ask these questions:

- **How easy was it to keep the cotton ball on the paper strip?** Accept students' responses.
- **Did anyone else's wind affect your cotton ball?**



Lesson 4: Be Prepared!

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- Was it hard to keep blowing?
- Did you ever get to the point where you wanted to quit?

In our lives, there will always be situations that are challenging. Sometimes other people will affect what we are doing. Other times we might get tired of doing what we know is right and we'll want to quit. But we must remain faithful to God and to His way of doing things. When we know what is right and do it, we'll influence others and introduce them to Jesus. And in doing things God's way, we make sure we're ready for Jesus to return.

WHY GROW UP?

Supplies

paper, paper clip, dental floss

Give each student a sheet of paper and ask students to make paper airplanes. Make one yourself. When everyone is finished, have each student fly her airplane. Make note of the flight path each plane takes. Though some might veer one direction or another, all of the planes will probably fall quite quickly. Most will not reach the other side of the room.

Some of your airplanes went quite a distance, but eventually the same thing happened to all of them—they fell to the ground. There are certain forces that act on the planes—gravity and friction—that caused these airplanes to fall. We can't stop gravity or friction because they're part of our world.

- **So how could we get the airplanes to stay up in the air?** Accept students' responses.

When the students have finished coming up with ideas, take out the paper airplane you made and tape a paper clip in the middle of the center section so a little loop shows on the top of the plane. Break off a long piece of dental floss and thread one end of the floss through the loop on the top of your airplane. Select two students to come to the front of the room. Ask them to hold on to one end, pulling the floss firmly. Select a third student to come up and fly the airplane by pushing it along the string.

Like this paper airplane, we need something or someone in our lives to hold us up and to help us keep moving in a straight path. That someone is God. He can help us when things in our lives get difficult and confusing and when we don't think we can keep going.



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HOW TO GROW UP

Supplies

Bibles, dictionaries, pencils, paper lunch bag, index cards

Before class, write each of the following words on separate index cards: *devout, impious, transgressing, perspicacious, iniquitous, vaunting, forbearing, acquiescent, vainglorious, magnanimous.*

Have students turn to 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 4:1-5, 7, 8. Read these verses aloud while students follow along. Then give each student one of the index cards and a pencil. Have students look at the words on their cards. Ask students to draw a smiling face on the other side of the card if they think the word on their card is a positive word or a frowning face if they think the word is a negative word.

Once everyone has completed this, pass out dictionaries and have the students look up the words to see if they were correct in their guesses. Students should write the definition under the words. When everyone is done, have the students read their words to the class and discuss their meanings. Divide the students so those with positive words are on one side of the room and those with negative words are on the other side.

The Bible tells us that in the last days we will see people acting in negative ways, like the negative words we looked up. We need to be careful that we don't act like that. These are behaviors that will cause us to quit, kind of like the paper airplanes did. The Bible says that we should have nothing to do with behavior like this.

Rather, we must choose to live godly lives and do good things, like the positive words we looked up. When we make a choice to live for God, He promises that he will help us. He will be sort of like the dental floss that held up my airplane. He will support us and help us and keep us moving in the right direction.

A person who is ready for Heaven looks forward to the return of Jesus, and he lives God's way, having nothing to do with behavior that displeases God.

READY TO GROW UP

Supplies

reproducible p. 7, scissors, markers or colored pencils



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Before class, make copies of page 7, one per student.

Are you ready for Jesus to return? Last week you were challenged to get ready for Jesus' return by using one of your talents.

- **What did you do?** Accept students' responses.

A person who is ready for Heaven looks forward to Jesus' return. And while she is waiting, she faithfully uses the talents she has to serve others. Let's look at another way that we can be ready for Jesus' return.

Give each student a copy of page 7. Help students as needed to form the page into a booklet.

This journal will be a special tool to help you this week. Each morning when you get up, take a few minutes to look up and read the Bible verses listed on one of the pages. Think about those verses all day long. In the evening, write down on that page if you did what those verses said to do. For example, let's say one morning you read the verses that go with the word *magnanimous*. Later that afternoon, your little sister is playing on your computer and deletes a report you were working on for school. If you generously forgive her instead of getting angry and yelling at her, record that in your journal. That verse has helped you stay on the right track and do what's pleasing to God! If there is time, students may enjoy coloring and decorating their journals.

When we're ready for Jesus to return, we avoid evildoers. Instead, we live our lives God's way so we can one day receive the crown of life.

GROWING UP EVERY DAY

Supplies

none

Have you ever heard an athlete talk about how easy it is to train? Probably not. Most people who are serious about training for a sport will tell you about how tired they get, how sore they get, and how they are sometimes tempted to give up.

Our Christian lives are a lot like that. We mess up and do wrong things. We can get frustrated and be tempted to give up. But if we use God's Word, the tool He has given to help us, we can stay strong and win the victory He promises us! And the victory is eternal life with Jesus! With God's help, we can do it!



Lesson 4: Be Prepared!

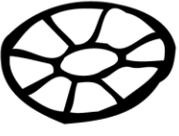
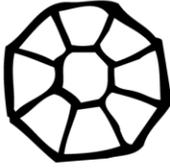
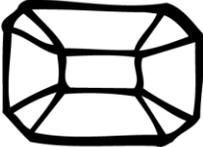
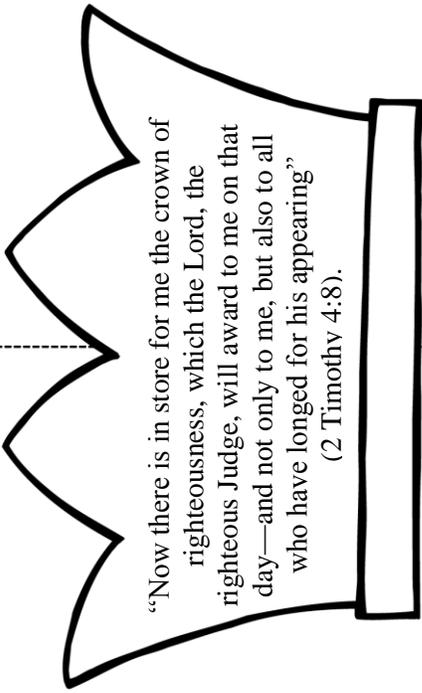
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Close with a time of prayer. Ask volunteers to pray, thanking God for His Word and helping us stay strong.



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<p>8</p>  <p>Acquiescent means "to obey without protest." Proverbs 1:8, 9</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Forbearing means "patient endurance." 2 Timothy 2:10-12</p>
<p>1</p>  <p>Perspicacious means "having keen mental discernment." Proverbs 14:6; 15:14; 18:15</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Devout means "devoted to worship." Psalm 100</p>
<p>2</p>  <p>Magnanimous means "generous in forgiving." Matthew 6:12-14</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>“Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:8).</p>
<p>3</p> <p>“No one knows about that day or hour, 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. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him” (Matthew 24:36, 42, 44).</p>	<p>4</p>

Follow these instructions to turn this page into a book.

Step 1—Cut out the book following the solid lines. **Step 2**—Cut along the solid line in the center of the book between pages 1 and 6 and also pages 2 and 5. **Step 3**—Crease along all the dashed lines. **Step 4**—Open the page and then fold in half lengthwise. **Step 5**—Push the two sets of outside pages to the center, causing the two sets of inside pages to push out. The pages should form a plus shape. **Step 6**—Fold the book so the pages are in order from 1 to 8.



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