

LESSON 9



THE END TIME IS NEAR

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand what the signs of the end times will be.
2. To understand what ungodliness is.
3. To learn how to live a godly life.

MEMORY VERSE

"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

(Luke 21:36)

PRAYER

1. Please give us the wisdom to understand the end times that are approaching.
2. Please help us understand how to prepare for the Lord Jesus' return, and give us the strength to spread the news to others.
3. Help us to stand firm in the Lord so that we can endure the hardships to come, and strengthen us daily so we remain steadfast in our faith.



Overview

1. The End Time Is Near

- Trials and Signs of the End Times
- Why is it taking so long?
- What should we do?

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—The Second Coming of Jesus

3. Life Application—Godliness in Our Daily Lives

4. Activity—Defend Yourself!



Background Knowledge for Teachers

There are an abundance of warnings in the Bible regarding the end times. A few days before Jesus' crucifixion, He was asked to elaborate about the end times in Matthew, chapter 24. Although He never mentions the exact date, He does speak of several warning signs that will occur when the time of His Second Coming draws near.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Straightforward instructions are the easiest for children to understand and follow. However, when it comes to spiritual instruction, “live a godly life” is probably about as vague an instruction as you can ever give them. “Deny ungodliness” is equally vague and incomprehensible. Spend time during this lesson to explain as best you can what these two concepts mean. Make sure to use common examples in their daily lives of both godly and ungodly actions. Encourage them to share their own ideas of what they believe godly and ungodly actions are. Help them to understand that although there are often so many ambiguous situations, “living a godly life” can be boiled down to the simple question of, “would God be pleased if I did this?” No matter what happens, as long as they are able to answer this question with confidence, they have nothing to fear from the tribulations that will occur during the end times.



Opener

5 Minutes

Boys and girls, you might not watch the news with your parents, but you might have heard about all the natural disasters and wars that are happening around the world right now. Have you heard about earthquakes, hurricanes, or wars recently? [If possible, bring in news clippings of recent events in the news pertaining to natural disasters or ongoing/impending wars.]

Have any of you personally witnessed or experienced any of these events? Do you feel scared when you hear about them? True, all of these events are scary by themselves, but in this lesson, we will learn about the bigger meaning behind all of them.



Vocabulary

false prophets: those who give untrue messages or teachings regarding the Bible and about God



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

What Is the Second Coming?

Today, we're going to learn about a very important day. This day is the day when Jesus will come again and take His children up into heaven with Him. It will be the day we finally receive the promised eternal life. We often refer to this day as the "second coming," and the days leading up to it, the "end times."

One of our ten basic beliefs says the following: "The Lord's Second Coming will take place on the last day when He descends from heaven to judge the world: the righteous will receive eternal life, while the wicked will be eternally condemned. (Mt 25:31-34; 1 Thess 4:16-17)"

This is the very reason Jesus gave His life for us—to give us eternal life. The idea may be very strange or vague to us, though. What does it mean? Everything around us is physical. Our bodies will eventually pass away, as will the world around us. But Jesus is offering a life that will never die. Once we receive eternal life, we will never again experience death! Can you imagine living happily for the

rest of eternity?

It is for this reason that the day of Jesus' Second Coming is so important to us. But in the days leading up to His Second Coming, the “end times,” there will be many trials that we will have to undergo. Unless we overcome those trials, we won't be able to receive eternal life.

Trials and Signs of the End Times

If the end times are a sign of Jesus' Second Coming, then how do we know that we are approaching the end times? The Bible teaches us about various events or signs that will tell us that we are very close to the end times. Let's turn to Matthew 24:3-14 and read it together.

Although He doesn't say exactly when it will happen, Jesus teaches us the signs that will mark the end times. Let's go through the verses again and list the signs together. [Teachers: Ask the students to list the signs one by one. Write them on the board as each is mentioned.]

- False Christs (v. 5)
- War/fighting nations (v. 6-7)
- Famine, pestilences, and earthquakes (v. 7)
- Persecution of Christ's followers (v. 9)
- Betrayal and hate (v. 10)
- False prophets (v. 11)
- Lawlessness and lack of love (v. 12)
- The gospel will spread to all nations (v. 14)

What a list! These are all the things that Jesus says will occur as signs of the approaching end times. This means that if we see all of these things happening, we will know that His Second Coming will be very, very soon!

FOR TEACHERS

Ask your students if they think they have seen any of these signs recently. Spend some time discussing them, perhaps examining a list of recent major events in the newspapers, or the attitude of non-members. **If you have the time and resources**, give the students some time to research recent major events, such as any natural disasters within the past few years, news of war or political upheaval, or even dates that have been proclaimed as the end of the world. If no computer or Internet connection is available, perhaps you can gather some recent, relevant newspapers or articles on the Internet ahead of time and bring them to class. Otherwise, continue with the lesson.

Why Is It Taking So Long?

Now that we've discussed the signs of the end times, how soon is "soon"? It seems that although we are approaching the end times, all of the signs have occurred over a very, very long period of time. Does this mean that it will still be a while until Jesus' Second Coming after all?

Let's turn to 2 Peter 3:8-9 and read it together. Although we may think that a thousand years is a very long time, to God it is equivalent to the amount of time it takes for us to blink! That's why we often say that "God's time is not our time." Having said that, it's not important for us to know the exact date and time of Jesus' second appearance. All we need to know is that, right now, the end time is near. In Matthew 24:33, Jesus tells us that the Second Coming is "at the doors"! He is ready to walk through the doors and return to the earth again at any moment!

There are things for us to learn and do while we wait!

What Should We Do?

Let's turn back to Matthew, chapter 24 and read verses 42-44. Jesus tells us that we have to watch for His coming, and "be ready." But how can we make ourselves ready?

Pray for the Fullness of the Holy Spirit

The first thing we must do to prepare ourselves is to receive the Holy Spirit. Some of us may have received it already, and others may not. We need to all pray for one another until everyone has the promised Spirit of God. But

why is the Holy Spirit so important? [Allow students to answer.] The Holy Spirit is a necessary requirement to enter heaven. If we don't have the Holy Spirit when Jesus comes, we won't be entering heaven with Him. None of us wants that to happen! But remember: even if you have the Holy Spirit already, that doesn't mean you can slack off. We need to pray until we are filled with the fullness of the Spirit, because the Spirit is not simply a ticket into heaven, it is also our guide and counselor, who can help us prepare for Jesus' Second Coming.

Deny Ungodliness and Live Godly Lives

Let's turn to a letter of Paul's and read a passage together: Titus 2:11-15.

This passage has very important teachings regarding how we should live until we are taken to heaven. Let's go through the passage and list all of the characteristics that we should strive for.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask the students to list the characteristics one by one, writing them on the board as they are named.

- Deny ungodliness (v. 12)
- Deny worldly lusts (v. 12)
- Live soberly (v. 12)
- Live righteously (v. 12)
- Live godly lives (v. 12)
- Look for the hope of Jesus' Second Coming (v. 13)
- Avoid lawless deeds (v. 14)
- Purify ourselves (v. 14)
- Be zealous for good works (v. 14)

Another long list! It's important to remember all of these, but today we are going to focus on two of these instructions that can be taken to encompass the rest of them: deny ungodliness, and live godly lives. But what exactly is ungodliness? And what does it mean to live a godly life?

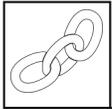
FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet and go through it with the students, helping where necessary. Once completed, discuss their answers to make sure the students have a thorough understanding of what ungodliness is, and what it means to live godly lives.

Being able to deny ungodliness and live godly lives makes us able to defend ourselves from sin during any trials or tribulations. As long as we can do this, we will surely be welcomed into our heavenly home when Jesus comes again, no matter what happens during the end times!

Now, before we conclude our lesson, let's all turn to our

memory verse and read it together: "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:36)



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Lord's Second Coming

The end times are a signpost indicating the second coming of Jesus. In these verses, He warns us of the tribulations to come during those times, and how we ought to conduct ourselves. We need to prepare ourselves for these tribulations and defend ourselves against sin so that when He finally comes again, we will be able to approach His throne with confidence and enter into His promised eternal life.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **On the second coming of Jesus, what will we receive?** We will receive our promised eternal life from Jesus.
2. **What are the end times?** The days leading up to Jesus' Second Coming.
3. **Name three signs of the end times.** False Christs; war; fighting nations; famine, pestilences, and earthquakes; persecution of Christ's followers; betrayal and hate; false prophets; lawlessness and lack of love; the spreading of the gospel to all nations.
4. **What does 2 Peter 3:8-9 say about God's time?** To God, one day is equivalent to a thousand years, and a thousand years to one day.
5. **What are three things we should do while waiting for the second coming?** Pray for the Holy Spirit/the fullness of the Spirit, deny ungodliness, and live godly lives.
6. **What are five characteristics Paul says we should strive for in Titus 2:11-15?** Deny ungodliness; deny worldly lusts; live soberly; live righteously; live godly lives; look for the hope of Jesus' Second Coming; avoid lawless deeds; purify ourselves; be zealous for good works.



Life Application

10 Minutes

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet, and go over the introduction. Then, ask them to fill in the blanks and fill in the box. Go over the students' answers as a class if time permits.]

Godliness in Our Daily Lives

Has there ever been a time in your life when you've completely forgotten about God? For all of us, the answer to that question would probably be an overwhelming "Yes!" In fact, it would probably be very difficult for us to count the number of times we have forgotten about God's presence. It's very easy for us to forget about Him because there are so many distractions in the world around us. On the other hand, a person who lives a godly life is a person who never forgets that He is with them!

During our lesson, we concluded that there are three common actions or characteristics of godliness. They are to...

1. Fear God
2. Love God, and
3. Seek God by being more like Him.

Try to think about some ways you can express each action in your daily life, and write your ideas in the table below. An example for each has been given to get you started. Discuss with your teacher and your classmates if you're stuck!

Examples

- *Never bully anyone in school, because it displeases God.*
- *Love God by loving my parents and being obedient to them.*
- *Pray every day for at least 5-10 minutes to try and draw closer to Him.*

**Activity****Defend Yourself!***10-15 Minutes*

Objective: To remind students to protect themselves with the armor of God.

Materials

- Blank paper
- Colored pencils, markers
- Construction paper (optional, for framing)
- Glue, tape (optional, for framing)

Instructions

1. Give each student a blank piece of paper and pencils.
2. Ask them to turn to Ephesians 6:12-17. Remind them that being godly means defending ourselves from ungodliness. In order to defend ourselves, we need to equip ourselves appropriately!
3. Have the students draw each piece of armor and label them appropriately*. Afterwards, they may color their picture and frame it with construction paper.

*Depending on the size of the class, you may ask them to draw the armor on large poster paper as a group instead, and hang it on the wall once the project is completed.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. We will receive our promised eternal life from Jesus.
2. The days leading up to Jesus' Second Coming.
3. False Christs; war; fighting nations; famine, pestilences, and earthquakes; persecution of Christ's followers; betrayal and hate; false prophets; lawlessness and lack of love; the spreading of the gospel to all nations.
4. Answers may vary.
5. Fear God, love God, and seek God by being more like Him. Answers may vary.

THE END TIME IS NEAR

Part A: Deny Ungodliness

What is ungodliness? The Bible mentions it many times, but is there an exact definition? Let's turn to the following verses and see if we can get a better idea of what ungodliness means.

[Note: Although NKJV is used in the following section, you may want to bring a dictionary or go over the NIV version as well, as your students may not understand some of the words.]

1 Timothy 4:1-2

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron."

2 Timothy 3:2-4

"For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

1 Corinthians 6:10

"Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

Part B: Live a Godly Life

When you read the term "godliness," how would you define it? "Denying ungodliness" and living a "godly life" are both very vague concepts, so vague that the one book that teaches us about them is one of the longest books in the world! Although the Bible doesn't give us a strict, dictionary definition for godliness, we can figure it out by looking at the many examples of godliness that the Bible offers us. Turn to the verses indicated in the table below, and fill out the chart as best you can. Consult your teacher or discuss with your neighbor if you are unsure about anything.

Bible Verse(s)	Who?	What was their attitude towards God?
1 Samuel 17:37; 26:8-11; Acts 13:22	David	<i>He had great faith in God's power and greatly feared Him. He also sought to be closer to Him.</i>
Exodus 33:15-18	Moses	<i>He sought God's presence with the Israelites, and desired to see Him face to face.</i>
Genesis 5:22, 24	Enoch	<i>He walked with God and was so close to Him that God took him before he experienced death.</i>

All three men were godly people. We can see that from their very characteristics without it being told to us. We can summarize their attitudes towards God into three basic actions or characteristics:

1. They feared God.
2. They loved God.
3. They sought to be closer to God.

Lastly, turn to the following verses and fill in the blanks.

John 14:15-16

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever."

We can then conclude from our study that to live a "godly life" means to be constantly aware of God's presence in our lives. Having godliness means to always **fear God**, **love God**, and also **seek God by being more like Him** with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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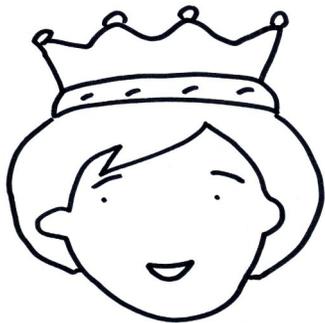
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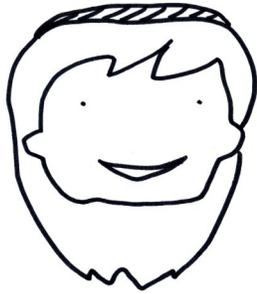
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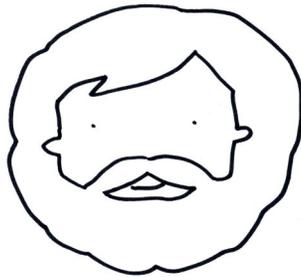
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Has there ever been a time in your life when you've completely forgotten about God? For all of us, the answer to that question would probably be an overwhelming "Yes!" In fact, it would probably be very difficult for us to count the number of times we have forgotten about God's presence. It's very easy for us to forget about Him because there are so many distractions in the world around us. On the other hand, a person who lives a godly life is a person who never forgets that He is with them!

Have I completely FORGOTTEN ABOUT GOD!

During our lesson, we concluded that there are three common actions or characteristics of godliness. They are to...

1. _____ God,
2. _____ God, and
3. _____ God by _____.

Try to think about some ways you can express each action in your daily life, and write your ideas in the table below. An example for each has been given to get you started. Discuss with your teacher and your classmates if you're stuck!

- *Never bully anyone in school, because it displeases God.*
- *Love God by loving my parents and being obedient to them.*
- *Pray every day for at least 5-10 minutes to try and draw closer to Him.*

Once you're done, take a colored pencil, red pen, or highlighter, and pick three that you are going to try to do this week! Make sure you share your choices with your teacher.

E2 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 9—The End Time Is Near

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Luke 21:36)**

Short Answer

1. On the second coming of Jesus, what will we receive?
2. What are the end times?
3. Name three signs of the end times.
4. Explain what ungodliness means, and give an example.
5. Name three actions or characteristics that summarize what it means to live a godly life. Name three examples of how you can live a godly life at home.