



— **Week 5** —

The Promise of Jesus' Return



Week 5

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP TIME

Set aside ten minutes one night this week to talk about God’s promise that Jesus will return. The only materials needed are five candles, matches, and a Bible.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

As a family, light all five candles. Talk about how Jesus, the Light, came into the world to pierce the darkness of sin once, and He will return to do away with it forever.

SCRIPTURE READING

Have one person read the following passages out loud.

“And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” **LUKE 21:27–28**

“I am going to show you a secret, John,” Jesus said, “about when I come back... Write down what you see so God’s children can read it, and wait with happy excitement... I’m on my way,” said Jesus. “I’ll be there soon.” **THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE**



REFLECTION

Have an adult read the commentary below.

Jesus came, just like God said He would. But God's promises don't end there. Just like God's people waited with eager anticipation for Jesus to come and rescue them from their sins, we are waiting too.

God made us another promise. He promised that Jesus would return to earth. He has already saved us from our sins if we love and trust Him. But when He comes the second time, He will save us from all the brokenness that sin has caused in the world.

Just like before, God has given us hints and clues about how and when Jesus will return. And just like before, we wait. Sometimes we wait patiently. Sometimes we wait with tears and frustration because we can't wait to live in a world without any sin. Sometimes we forget and wonder if Jesus really will come back. But God is faithful—even when we are faithless. And Jesus will come back.

Ask: How do you think we should be waiting for Jesus' return? What should we do as we wait?

This time, Jesus will not come in the middle of the night as a baby. He will not be weak and helpless. The Bible tells us that when Jesus comes back, He will ride out of the sky on a horse, carrying a sword. He will do battle with Satan. And He will win. Our Rescuer is coming back!

While we wait, we wait with hope. We live lives of joy, peace, and compassion. We strive to be more like Jesus, every day putting sin to death. And we tell others that Jesus came to save sinners in hopes that they will love and trust in Him, too.

Jesus is coming back. We don't know when, but we know He's coming. Soon. So be ready. Soon we will worship our King, as He deserves, forever. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Ask: As we read these verses and remember God's faithfulness to send a Rescuer and His promise that Jesus will come again, what attributes of God do you see?

PRAYER

Have one family member say a prayer, asking Jesus to come again soon.



SONG

As a family, sing or listen to “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” As you do, read carefully through the lyrics and explain any words that might be unfamiliar to your kids. Ask them what they learn about Jesus from this song.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*



FAMILY ACTIVITY

Together, read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 and talk about what Jesus’ return will be like, look like, and sound like. What do you learn from this passage?

Ask your children what questions they have about Jesus’ return and if it’s something that scares them to think about. Assure them that Jesus’ return will usher in a world with no more sin, sickness, sadness, fights, punishment, or having to eat foods they don’t like. Even better, those who love and trust Jesus will be with Him forever with no separation. We should look to and long for Jesus’ return. And while we wait, we should take seriously His command to love Him first and most, know His Word, care for the poor, and share the gospel.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

(Examples can be found on The Village’s Pinterest board.)

Set out Nativity set you have created this week.

Draw or paint what you think Jesus’ return might look like.

Spend time outside watching the clouds. After Jesus died and came back to life, He returned to heaven by going up into the clouds. The Bible tells us He will return, coming out of the clouds. Spend time imagining what Jesus’ return will look like and pray for Him to come soon.

