CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Why We Believe

Lesson 7: Jesus Is Coming Back

About This Lesson

If young people really believed that Jesus was returning, they might make different choices now. Rather than focus on pleasing their peers and living to please themselves, they would be more focused on being in God's Word and bringing heaven to the earth so more people go with them when Christ returns!

Key Takeaway: Jesus is getting ready to return for His bride, the Church.

Key Verse: Revelation 22:20 *He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

Teaching Outline:

I. WHAT IS JESUS DOING NOW?

A. Jesus is preparing a place for you in heaven.

John 14:1–4 *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know.*

1. Christ's return for His church is often compared to a wedding! It takes a lot of work to prepare for a big wedding.
2. The bridegroom is preparing the place for His bride.

B. Jesus has taken care of all the preparations!

1. You don't have to do anything! Just trust and believe Jesus.

II. WHY IS JESUS COMING BACK?

A. He is coming back for His church!

B. He's coming back to completely and utterly pulverize the devil! This is part of the Gospel.
   1. When was the Gospel first mentioned in Scripture?
   Genesis 3:14–15 *So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.* [15] *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*

C. The Gospel (good news, salvation message of Jesus, grace) mentions that Jesus will crush the head of the devil!

D. Another super important aspect of the Gospel is that we also have authority and power to crush the head of Satan!
   Romans 16:20 *And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*

E. The reason Jesus came the first time is similar to the reason He's coming the 2nd time!
   1 John 3:8 *…For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*
   John 10:10 *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

III. WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WHEN JESUS COMES BACK?

A. There will be a great reunion of believers! We will be caught up together—raptured.
   1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.* [14] *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.* [15] *For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will*

by no means precede those who are asleep. [16] For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. [18] Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1. Death will be swallowed up in victory! O Death, where is your sting? Hosea 13:14 *I will ransom them from the power of the grave [sheol]; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave [sheol], I will be your destruction! Pity is hidden from My eyes.*
    a. Even unbelievers hate death- God has placed a bit of His infinite breath in all humanity, and we all long for an eternity with Him.

B. The signs of the times are all around us. Matthew 24:3, Jesus' disciples asked Him, "What is the sign of your coming?" Jesus answered (Matthew 24:4–14):
    1. False Christs
    2. War and rumors of wars
    3. Nationality conflicts
    4. Struggle for power & poverty
    5. Famine
    6. Pestilence, disease
    7. Earthquakes
    8. Hatred of Christians and Jews
    9. Offence and betrayal
    10. False prophets
    11. Iniquity will abound
    12. The Gospel will be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations.

Revelation 22:12–13,20 *And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. [13] I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. …[20] He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

Bottom Line:
Jesus is returning! Are you ready?

Small Group Time:

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18. The Bible tells us that we don't have to remain in sorrow, but we have hope that we will be reunited with other believers who have passed away.

- When Jesus returns, is there anyone that you are especially excited to see returning with Him? (maybe a family member or person from the Bible)
- We will also see Jesus! What do you think He will look like, sound like, act like?

2. Jesus will return, possibly in your lifetime.

- If you really believe that Jesus is coming back, what changes would you make now? (review that salvation is essential and pray with anyone who desires to receive salvation)
- How can you help your friends and family get ready for Christ's return?

Declaration:
"Jesus Christ is returning! I'm not going to wait to get ready; I'm ready now!"

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** How will you live today to show that you are ready for Christ to return?
- **Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas of your life that aren't surrendered to Jesus as you prepare for Christ's return.
- **Read:** Each day this week, read one of these verses about Jesus's return and write what the Holy Spirit speaks to you about that verse: Revelation 1:7, Matthew 16:27, Matthew 24:27, Matthew 24:30, and Matthew 25:13.
- **Live It:** Depending where you live, you might have a disaster preparedness kit. Make a list of things that will help you prepare for Christ's return, such as books about Christian living, worship music, and reading your Bible. Each day do something on your list.
- **Create:** Look locally, nationally, and internationally to document signs of the times. Put together a list that identifies the signs you see in today's world that

match the signs mentioned in Matthew 24:3-14. Post the list on social media and use it as an opportunity to explain that people can be ready for Jesus to return by receiving salvation.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What was scary at the time it happened, but now you can laugh about it?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Today's lesson discusses Jesus returning for His bride, the church. Look online for wedding planning lists or a funny short video about wedding planning.

Another idea is to look online and play Jordan Feliz's official music video of his song "Jesus Is Coming Back" (the video ends with several quick reactions from people, including teens, saying they are excited about Jesus coming back). Invite one of your leaders to film the youth's reactions to the phrase "Jesus is coming back." Compile and show it at the end of the group.

Opening Affirmation: "Today, I will be taught the Word of God. My mind is alert, my heart is receptive, and I will never be the same. I am about to receive the incorruptible, indestructible, ever-living seed of the Word of God. I will never be the same—never, never, never. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Giving Time: 2 Corinthians 9:10 *Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.*

God supplies seed to sowers! It doesn't matter what happens in the world around us, God is our source and He promises to give seed to people who will sow it. When we sow our seed, we allow God to be creative in how He gets more seed back to us

BEYOND –
ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: Among Christians, there are many views on when Jesus will return. Don't get sidetracked in theological debates; let's unite that Jesus is returning, and we need to help people get ready. Encourage the young people to look for opportunities (divine set-ups) to share with someone this week about how to receive salvation and be ready for Christ's return.

Biblical Worldview: When Christians know what God's Word says about Christ's return, we can know the signs that His return is coming quickly. Encourage the young people to take seriously being prepared for Christ's return by accepting Jesus, as the only One to pay for their sins. When the youth have the assurance of their salvation, they need to share the Gospel message with others so they will be prepared for Jesus to return. By living their biblical worldview of preparedness for Christ's return, they can have life-changing conversations with friends about what they believe and why.

Outreach/Missions: The Great Commission is for anyone who says "yes" to Jesus—including youth. The young people can develop a passion for seeing their generation turn to Jesus. Invite small groups to gather with a similar passion for a country or people group. Have them pray for the Gospel message to be presented to the youth of that country or people group.