

**LESSON 3: JESUS IS COMING SOON**

This includes:

- 1. LEADER PREPARATION**
- 2. LESSON GUIDE**

**1. LEADER PREPARATION****LESSON OVERVIEW**

After Jesus died on the cross for us and rose again, he returned to heaven. But he's coming back to earth—soon—for us. He offers a heavenly reward to everyone who believes in him. Jesus' imminent arrival is joyous for Christians but scary for people who don't believe in him. He advises us to be ready for his return, living lives that honor him. By following Jesus while we wait for his return, we can let others know about his free gift of salvation so they, too, can spend eternity with him in heaven.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES**

- 1. WHAT:** Although we don't know the exact date, Jesus is coming soon to take people who believe in him to heaven forever.
- 2. WHY:** Teenagers will see that Jesus is eager for us to be united with him eternally.
- 3. HOW:** Students will explore Jesus' final message to us confirming his power, his love, and his desire for us to be with him.

**PRIMARY SCRIPTURE**

Revelation 22:8-21

**SECONDARY SCRIPTURES**

Revelation 1:17-19; 22:5

**TEACHING PREP**

**LEADER  
TIP**

**Use this short overview to prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your group, you'll want to absorb it as you prepare to lead.**

**Read Revelation 22:8-21.**

This is the very last passage in the Bible. It's how it all ends—and God wins! Part of this passage confirms the validity of all Scripture. The rest contains Jesus' final words. Through John, Jesus lets us know he's coming back soon. We don't know exactly when, but it will be soon.

When the angel shares Jesus' message with John, John begins to worship the angel as he did earlier in Revelation. The angel rebukes John and tells him to worship only God. This confirms the first and greatest commandment, to love the Lord your God.

Jesus' statement that he's the Alpha and the Omega speaks to his infinite nature and his limitless, boundless life. Jesus' authority is complete, timeless, and sovereign. Jesus also says he's the "source of David and the heir to his throne" (verse 16). In the flesh, this is impossible; someone can't be both an ancestor and heir. But in the spirit, the impossible becomes possible. We can recognize how Jesus is our bright morning star. Through salvation, Jesus shines his light into our darkness. That light gives us peace, provides direction, and reveals truth.

Verse 17 provides Jesus' final invitation to us all. He wants us to come to him and receive his gift of life-giving water. In fact, Jesus references our thirst and our need for the water of life, just as he did with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4.

## **THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]**

### **TEXTS OR TWEETS**

**Send one or both of these messages to your students prior to your meeting. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry.**

- When do you think Jesus is coming back? Come tonight for a fascinating discussion—and bring a friend!
- If you could do just one thing before the end of time, what would it be? Let's talk more this week.

### **PARENT EMAIL**

**Send this email to parents following the lesson to encourage them to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.**

Dear parents,

We've wrapped up our series about "Jesus at the End of Time," which looked at Jesus' role in the future. In the final lesson, we discussed Revelation 22:8-21, where Jesus says he's coming back soon. After he died on the cross and rose again, Jesus went up to heaven. But he promised to return for us, to take us to our heavenly reward if we believe in him.

Jesus' imminent arrival is joyous for Christians but scary for people who don't believe in him. He advises us to be ready for his return, living lives that honor him and sharing his good news with other people.

Talk with your teenager this week about the lesson, and please continue exploring Jesus' truths together. Feel free to start with these discussion questions:

- Why do you think people create bucket lists? What's one thing you would include on this kind of list?
- If you could, would you want to know the exact day that Jesus is returning? Why or why not?
- To get ready for Jesus' return, what do you need—or want—to do? Explain.
- Who do you know who's anxious about Jesus' return? How can you help that person get to know Jesus and prepare for his return?

Thanks for all your prayers for our students and our ministry. Have an incredible week!

**LESSON 3: JESUS IS COMING SOON****2. LESSON GUIDE****GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]****LEADER  
TIP**

For the opening activity, you'll need paper and pens or pencils.

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:**

*Spend the next few minutes writing a story about a person you know. It doesn't have to be very long, but there are a few rules:*

- *This subject has to be someone you've met personally—who no one else in the room has met personally.*
- *You can't use the person's name (or a portion of the name) in your story.*
- *You have to include three descriptive details about this person.*

**Give every student some paper and a pen or pencil. Repeat the instructions, if necessary, and allow time for students to write their stories. When they're finished, have students share their stories one by one. Ask the group to guess who each story is about.**

**ASK:**

- *What made it easy or difficult to guess the character in each story?*
- *As the author, why was it important that you personally knew the character in your story?*
- *How was this activity similar to or different from doing a research paper on a historical figure you've never met?*
- *If someone were to write a story about you, what descriptive details might he or she include, and why?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *To write a good narrative, you really need to know a person. A story suffers when you're just reporting on someone you've heard about or only researched. After Jesus died and rose again, he revealed more important truths about himself to John, who recorded them in Revelation, the final book of the Bible. Today we'll dig deeper into some of those truths.*

**TEACHING POINTS****LEADER  
TIP**

Use the Teaching Points to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. Remember: All throughout these lessons, it's up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.

**Read Revelation 22:8-21 together as a group. Consider dividing verses among your students so several people have a chance to read.**

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *The book of Revelation can be a bit tricky to understand, but it ends with some amazing information and promises.*

## **1. JESUS, THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA, WANTS US TO LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER**

**ASK:**

- *What type of limits do the authority figures in your life have? How does this affect their authority?*
- *What are some similarities between authority and power? What are some differences?*
- *Why does Jesus deserve to be first in our lives? Why is it often tempting to put other things or other people first?*
- *Describe someone you know who puts Jesus first. How can you follow that person's example?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *When the angel shared Jesus' message with John, John began to worship the angel. The angel rebuked John and told him to worship only God. Jesus says he's the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. This statement speaks to Jesus' infinite, limitless life and power. Jesus' authority is complete, timeless, and sovereign. He alone is worthy of honor and praise.*

## **2. JESUS, THE BRIGHT MORNING STAR, OFFERS LIGHT FOR OUR LIVES—BOTH ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN**

**ASK:**

- *Describe a time of physical darkness you've experienced. What is it like to be literally left in the dark?*
- *What are some things that light does for us? In what ways does Jesus do those same things during our lives here on earth?*
- *Why do some people reject Jesus' light, despite everything it can do for them?*
- *Read Revelation 22:5. What does this verse tell you about what eternal life in heaven will be like?*
- *How can you help shine Jesus' light into other people's lives?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Thanks to Jesus' death and resurrection, we have the opportunity to receive him as our perfect source of light. By shining his light into our darkness, Jesus gives us peace, direction, and truth. By following Jesus, we can shine his light into other people's lives. We can share the good news that Jesus wants them to spend eternity with him in heaven.*

## **3. JESUS, THE WATER OF LIFE, OFFERS US THE ULTIMATE THIRST-QUENCHER: ETERNITY IN HEAVEN**

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Verse 17 provides Jesus' final invitation to us. He wants everyone to come to him, receive him, and live forever with him in heaven. In fact, he references a thirst that only he, as the water of life, can quench.*

## ASK:

- Describe a time when you were incredibly thirsty. What was it like to finally get a sip of water?
- Why is eternal life available to everyone—no matter what they've done or failed to do?
- In what ways do you thirst for Jesus?
- In what ways do you thirst for heaven?
- How can you quench your thirst for life with Jesus during your time on earth?

## EXTRA DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

Ask students to form groups of two or three to discuss these questions.



## ASK:

- Read Revelation 1:17-19. What about the future scares you the most? excites you the most?
- What tough things have you overcome during your life? How does it feel to know that Jesus overcame death?
- If Jesus holds “the keys of death and the grave,” why do people still have to die?
- When you get to heaven, what’s the first thing you think you’ll do, and why?

Bring everyone back together, and ask for volunteers to share answers to the previous questions, as time permits.

## LIVING IT OUT

## ASK:

- If you knew that today would be your last day on earth, what might you do, and why?
- What are some things you want to accomplish here on earth before you die or before Jesus returns? Explain.
- Why do you think God doesn’t want us to know the exact date of Jesus’ return?
- How can your life be impacted by an excitement that Jesus is coming back soon?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *The end of time is a heavy topic. In fact, many Christians avoid studying Revelation because it can be uncomfortable and difficult to understand. But the great news is that we know how everything ends. God wins! Jesus is still on the throne—and always will be. Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we can have eternal life in heaven with him.*

Ask students to each find a quiet spot for a few minutes of prayer and reflection. Consider praying together as a group or asking if any students would like prayer from the rest of the group.

## SUMMARY



Provide a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) this lesson’s content, (2) the dialogue that took place today, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.

**FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]**

Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the Scripture below.

*“ ‘Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds’ ”  
(Revelation 22:12).*