

CATEGORY

Integrity

TITLE

Preparing for Jesus' Return

REFERENCE

Joel 3:9–16

◦ orange merit ◦

Joel

LEADERS LESSON OVERVIEW—Lesson 5



FOR THE LEADER

In this lesson, we will learn to prepare for the return of Jesus to earth.

KEY POINT

With God's help, I will be ready for Jesus' return.

KEY VERSE

The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.
Joel 3:16

Note: Boys are not required to memorize the

Key Point or Key Verse to receive completion credit for this lesson.

For information on how to use Bible merits in a Royal Rangers meeting, refer to the TRaCclub Support section or the *Royal Rangers Leader Manual*.

REFLECT ANSWERS

These answers match the questions in the Reflect section of the boys' sheet.

- Each Christian must make sure that their heart is right with God, and they must do what they can to help others be ready.
- God is in control. He will take care of His people.
- Answers will vary.



MATERIALS & PREP

Prepare a copy of the Student Handout for each boy.

Read the lesson in advance, taking note of the main points. Be prepared to present the lesson to your group, but avoid reading it word for word. Include discussion with the group to make it more enjoyable for everyone.

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STUDENT HANDOUT—Lesson 5



KEY THOUGHTS

KEY POINT

With God's help, I will be ready for Jesus' return.

KEY VERSE

The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

Joel 3:16



READ

Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war! Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men draw near and attack. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weakling say, "I am strong!" Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there.

Bring down your warriors, LORD!

"Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow— so great is their wickedness!"

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from

Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. Joel 3:9–16

After Jesus died on the cross and came back to life, He spent time with His disciples. He taught them and prepared them for the future. Then, after forty days, He rose to heaven. He promised to return, and that day is coming soon (Acts 1:1–11; John 14:3). Joel's words describe some of what will happen near the end of time when Jesus comes back.

Prophecies about the end of the age can be hard to figure out. So, above all else, it's crucial to know this: God is in control. We don't need to know exactly what will happen. And we don't need to know the exact timing of events. As long as we trust and obey God, He will take care of those who obey Him.

The basic belief is that Jesus will take His people

to heaven. Then, He will return to Earth and eventually set up His kingdom for one thousand years. After that, there will be another war. Jesus will win. This will bring the new heaven and new earth, and the final judgment. Those who have trusted in Christ will spend eternity with Him. Those who have not will be thrown into the lake of fire.

What are we supposed to do to prepare for Jesus' return? First, we must be sure that our heart is right with God. Second, we must live in a way that honors God. Third, we must tell others about Jesus and help them avoid eternal punishment for their sin.

Second Peter 3 gives us some details about the end of all things, and it gives pretty clear instructions to believers. In part, Peter tells us:

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3:11–13).

So, we are to live a holy and godly life. We are to look forward to Jesus' return. We have nothing to fear, not even war, if we have put our hope in God. We can rejoice at the thought of a new heaven and new earth.



REFLECT

As a group, discuss the following questions.

- What is the Christian's responsibility in preparing for Jesus' return?
- Why do Christians not need to fear the end times?
- How can you start preparing today for Jesus to come back?

Review the Key Point and the Key Verse.

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus the first time to provide salvation, and thank You that You are sending Him again so we can live forever with You. Help me to do everything I can to prepare for His soon return. Amen.



RESPOND

One of the more difficult things to understand is the timing of Jesus' return. We say He is coming soon, but what does that mean? Read 2 Peter 3:1–18, paying particular attention to verses 8 and 9. In light of these verses, discuss what we mean when we say that Jesus is coming soon.

Remember to read your Bible this week using the Bible reading plan of your choice. A recommended plan can be found in the Bible Reading merit or online at royalrangers.com. Review this lesson with a friend or parent as a way to help you remember it.

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