

FOCUS
Doctrine

TITLE
Rapture

REFERENCE
1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

• brown merit •

1 Thessalonians

... LESSON 1

• FOR THE LEADER

• PREP



FOR THE LEADER

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

The Rapture is not a day or event to be feared, but a great time to be looked forward to when we finally get to see Jesus!

THINK ABOUT IT:

- Why are people afraid of the Rapture?
- What is there to fear about the Rapture?
- Are you looking forward to the return of Jesus?



PREP

paper (one sheet per boy)
pencils or pens (one per boy)

• Notes •

- Refer to the *Royal Rangers Leader Manual* (2010 Edition), chapter 7, Meetings, for more information on teaching Bible merits.

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1 Thessalonians

... LESSON 1

· READ



· REFLECT



· RESPOND



READ

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

The Bible isn't like a movie that makes you wait until the last minute to discover the ending. God has already written the end of the story, and when we read the Bible we can discover that ending. God will eventually put an end to sin, death, and evil. That's good news! The Bible also tells us that a day is coming when Jesus will return and take those who follow Him to heaven.

The word we use to describe this event is *Rapture*. 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 tell us about the Rapture of the Church. Do you think it is something we should be afraid of? Why or why not?

Here are three reasons not to be afraid or worried about the Rapture:

1. For those who follow Jesus, the Rapture is a hopeful event when we will see Jesus.
2. We will be reunited with friends and family who followed Jesus and have died.
3. God loves us and keeps His promises to rescue us from a world that is full of sin, suffering, and death.

Has someone close to you died? Who was it? Why do you think people are sad when someone close to them dies? What does 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 tell us about death?

Death isn't something we should desire or look forward to, but it doesn't need to be something we fear or worry about. Just like death, we have no reason to fear the Rapture. It is a hopeful event for those who are believers in Jesus.

The only reason to fear the return of Jesus is if you are not a Christian, and that can be fixed! The Bible in Romans 10:9 explains that if you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

God is in control. If you receive His gift of salvation, you will be saved and don't need to fear death or the Rapture.

The verses you read also say that we should "encourage each another with these words." What do you think that means in regard to the Rapture?

The Rapture is not something to be feared or something for us to worry about. It's an event to look forward to. It's also not something to be used to scare others into believing in Jesus. But it is our hope for an amazing future with God, Jesus, and all the members of the family of God!

PRAYER: Dear God, I am thankful that You are in control of how everything will end. I ask for Your help to persevere and trust You until that end comes. In Jesus' name. Amen.



REFLECT

Take a famous story, fable, or movie and write a new ending for it. (For example, retell the story of the three little pigs and let the wolf catch the pigs in the end.) After you finish, gather with the rest of your group and share your alternate endings.

When you are in control of the story you get to determine how it ends. God is sovereign, which means that He is in control of everything. He gets to determine how the story of our world ends.



RESPOND

Learn and say 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 to your parents, guardian, or group leader.

- 7-DAY BIBLE READING PLAN**
- Sunday ·
 - Monday ·
 - Tuesday ·
 - Wednesday ·
 - Thursday ·
 - Friday ·
 - Saturday ·

The *Fire Bible: Student Edition* provides a reading plan that follows a two-year design for reading the entire Bible. Follow that reading plan in order to earn the green Bible Reading merit.

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