Mark 13

*“Looking Up!”*

**Scripture:** Mark 13:1-37

**Bible Memory Verse:** *“Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.”*

 Mark 13:33

**Lesson Focus:** Be ready for the return of Jesus.

**Activities and Craft:** Coloring Page, Work Sheet

Craft for 1st and 2nd graders: “Watch and Pray Eye” (Have the kids color their eyes and then take brown construction paper and make eyelashes that they can glue or tape on the eye.) Example is at the end of this leson

**Introduction:**

 What are the signs that:

 That School is going to start? (the bell rings)

That the movie is about to begin? (The movie reviews are over, the reminder to

turn off your cell phones comes on, and the music begins and the production company logo comes on the screen.)

**Bible Study:**

**Teacher Note:** Mark 13 is what we call the “Olivet Discourse. It is by far one of the most difficult passages in the New Testament. This is because Jesus is using prophetic language that has implications in the Old and New Testament and the nature of the prophecy itself. This prophecy has multiple fulfillments with the nation of Israel and the destruction of the temple and culminating in a final fulfillment. We will try very hard to not scare the kids – but to focus on the main idea of what Jesus is saying and the fact that we are to be “eagerly waiting for His return.” . Therefore, we will not read all of the verses.

**Mark 13:1-2:** “The Great Temple”

(I will have a pamphlet of a picture of the Temple and description of the temple that you can use to show the kids in each room.)

Jesus is leaving the temple for good. As they leave one of the disciples marvels at the stones of the temple. The Temple was a great sight to see, one of the great wonders of the Romans world. It took 46 years to complete. People say that when you saw it on Mr. Moriah it looked like a mountain of gold – because there was so much gold on it. The foundation stones were almost the size of boxcars.

But Jesus’ answer surprises the disciples.

√ What does Jesus tell them in verse 2? (that not one of these stones will be left.) Jesus is talking about the destruction of the Temple that will happen within 40 years by General Titus.

 **Mark 13:3-4;** *“The Big Question”*

 √ What do the disciples ask Jesus? (When will this happen and what will be the

 signs?)

Just like we talked about at the beginning of the lesson that sometimes there are signs that something is about to happen. They wanted to know how they would know when this was to begin. They were asking about the destruction of the Temple but from Matthews’s gospel we also learn that they wanted to know about the end times when Jesus returns.

We always want to know when something is going to happen, don’t we?

 **Mark 13:5-13;** *“Events before the destruction of the Temple and the end of the Age.*

The reality of following Jesus is not always easy. Jesus had been telling His disciples this truth over and over. Now He gives them details. He will talk about some of the things that they will have to suffer and He will include many things that will happen at the end of the Age before the Second Coming of Christ.

13:5 –6; don’t be deceived – be careful who and what you believe. Many will come and say that they are the “Christ.” There will be “fake” Jesus ‘or fake Messiahs. There have been many people who claim that they are Jesus through the ages. We have to be very careful what we believe and who we follow. We need to know the Bible! I have known people (who do not know the Bible well) get involved with cults that teach things that are not in the Bible.

13:7 – many wars will happen. In the last 3,421 years of recorded history there have only been 268 years without war. War is a part of our life.

13:8 – earthquakes and famines. Does it seem like there are more and more earthquakes and natural disasters happening?

13:9 – the followers of Jesus will be put on trial. Many of the disciples that followed Jesus were put on trial to deny Christ. Many in our world have are being put on trial for following Christ.

13:10 – the Gospel will be preached to all nations – this refers to the end of the age. God wants every nation, tribe and tongue to hear His “good news.”

√ Is the Gospel being preached to all nations? God wants everyone to hear that Jesus paid the price for our sins and is the only way to Heaven. After Jesus went back to heaven and the first church started very soon the word was going out to the whole world – not just to the Jews. God is waiting to come back because He wants everyone to have a chance to know the truth of the Gospel.

13:11 – don’t worry what to say when you are arrested. God through the power of the Holy Spirit will give you the words to say.

13:12 – families will betray one another.

13:13 – the world will hate them – but hang in there until the end.

√ Does the world hate the message of the cross? Yes. Jesus told us before He went back to heaven that the world “hated” Him, but to take courage because He has overcome the world. (John 16:33)

All of these things happened after Jesus went back to heaven and they are still happening

**God does not count “time” like we do:**

Jesus said that many of these things will happen during the life of the disciples. But it is also happening during our lifetime and into the future. “*But beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that nay should perish but that all should come to repentance.”* 2 Peter 3:8-9

God waits and is patient so that more people will come to know Him as Savior.

**Mark 13:14-23 –** *“The Tribulation”*

The Tribulation is a time in history when the believers will have been removed (The Rapture) and there is Great War on the earth. It is a time that was prophesied in the book of Daniel 9:27, 12:1 and 11:31 about a coming figure who would do the wrong things in the Temple. It also speaks of the time at the end of the age when the “man of lawlessness” the “antichrist” fights his final fight.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; *“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God showing himself that he is God.*

There will be a time when a man says that he is God. This is a time in the future and Christ is warning us about it.

**Mark 13:24-37;** *“The Second Coming”*

√ What does 13:26 say will happen? Jesus returns

 √ How does He return? (from the clouds with power and glory)

 Matthew 25:31; (In glory with all the holy angels with Him)

 Revelation 1:7; (In the clouds)

√ What does Jesus tell the disciples about the timing of everything? (13:32) (that onlythe Father knows when.)

**What is the important message of the Second Coming and the end times?**

Mark 13:33, “*Take heed, watch and pray, for you do not know when the time is.”*

 “Take Heed” – be careful how you are living

 “Watch” – be excited about Jesus coming back

 “Pray” – pray that you will be ready and that God’s work will get done

The Bible is very clear that we are to be excited about Jesus returning.

√ Why are we not excited? Why don’t we think about it? Does it scare us? Why?

Do we love this world too much?

**Here is what the Bible says about Jesus coming back and what we are to be doing to prepare:**

1. Hebrews 9:28; *“…so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”*
2. Jesus died once for the sin of the world
3. We need to be eagerly awaiting His return
4. He will return a second time, not to die for sin – but to bring those who accept Him to salvation and eternity and not God’s judgment.
5. 2 Timothy 4:8; *“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*
6. We get a crown of righteousness from Jesus because He died to make us righteous (right living.)
7. We need to love and look for His appearing.
8. 1 John 2:28; *“And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”*

Our job is to be ready for Jesus. We are to watch and pray. We are to be doing His business. The Bible tells us over and over to be prepared to meet Jesus. To be holy and to be blameless, in other words to be living for God. There is a big word in the bible and it is “sanctify”. When we know Jesus as our Savior we are forgiven our sins but we are also “sanctified” which means “set apart.” We are “set apart” to be different than the world and to be like Jesus. We are “set apart” for “good works” that God has for us to do for Him.

There is a story that Jesus tells in Matthew 25 of 10 women waiting to get married. The Bridegroom has gone away for a while and they are to wait and be ready for Him at any time. They all had a lamp. They were to keep the lamp burning and ready for His return. 5 women were wise and 5 were foolish. At midnight a shout was heard that the Bridegroom was coming and they were to go out to meet him. The 5 lazy women had let the oil in their lamp burn out and could not see so they went to buy oil. The 5 wise women had kept enough oil in their lamps and were ready to go meet him and went into the wedding and the door was shut. It was not opened to the 5 lazy women because they were not ready and they missed the wedding. And Jesus says this at the end of the story; *“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”*

The moral of this story is that we are to be prepared to meet Jesus at any time.

The book of Titus 2:12-13; *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,* ***looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”***

Are you looking?

Are you excited?

Are you ready?

