

Luke 12:35-48

Practice Readiness

Scripture: Luke 12:35-48

Memory Verse: Luke 12:40 *“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

Lesson Focus: Jesus challenges us in this section to be ready for His return. The last several weeks the kids have been taught to put their faith into practice and this time we will add “readiness” into this practice regimen. We hope this lesson will challenge and encourage the kids to “practice readiness” as they look forward to Jesus’s return!

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Ready Runner, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Race Lights

Starter Activity: Assume the Ready Position

Many of the kids are likely involved in athletic activities that have a “ready position”. Consider getting the lesson started by demonstrating some of these stances and having the kids follow along with you (and to make it more fun, consider working a “Simon Says” game into it). * First ask a couple of Qs to get the kids thinking about this.

Q: How many of you play sports? Which sports do you play?

Many of these sports have what is called a “ready position”. * Let’s practice some of these together. (**Teachers:** See some examples below with links to demos) *

- **Tennis:** knees slightly bent, hands on your racket in front of you *
- **Karate:** feet slightly apart, arms slightly bent with fists closed below your belt
- **Soccer Goalie:** feet shoulder width, legs bent, hands out, eyes on the ball *
- **Boxing:** one foot in front of the other, and fists protecting your face
- **Sprinter:** crouched down with hands on the ground and head bowed low
- **Shortstop:** similar to tennis, but with hands ready in between legs to catch ball

Q: Why are these ready positions important? *

A: They will help you better respond to whatever is coming your way. *

Q: And what might happen if you are not in the ready position?

A: Not only will you lose, but you could get hit in the face with a ball!

As we get back into the gospel of Luke today, Jesus has some lessons for us about readiness too. Let’s open up our Bibles together and see what He wants us to be ready for and what “ready positions” He wants us to assume.

Bible Study:

Jesus just got done teaching about living for today. We are not to worry (12:22), seek Him and His kingdom (12:32), and make Him the treasure of our hearts (12:34). * But now in today's text He is going to teach about readiness for tomorrow (the future)! *

Luke 12:35-36: Jesus begins to describe this “ready position” using a parable or story to teach a lesson.

Q: Who do you think the master is? A: That's right, Jesus!

Q: And who do you think the household servants of the master are? A: Followers of Jesus like you and me!

Jesus is teaching us about the future. He, the master, is going to come again and His followers are to be ready and looking forward to this return.

Q: How many of you have uniforms that you play your sports in? Why do you have those?

A: One important reason is that they get you ready to play! Imagine if you showed up to your soccer game wearing slippers and pajamas! You would not be ready to compete! This “girding of the waste” speaks of this same kind of readiness, but for His return! *

Luke 12:37a: Jesus pronounces a blessing on those followers of His that He will find watching, ready, and alert when He returns!

Q: How do you feel when you've done something special for someone you love? It feels really good! Imagine how great it will feel when Jesus returns and He finds us ready! *

Luke 12:37b: But then look at this amazing twist! This pictures Jesus, the Master, coming and serving US, His servants! I wonder if this is alluding to the amazing future marriage feast of the Lamb where Jesus celebrates with all believers across all time. (see **Revelation 19:7-9**) *

Luke 12:38: The second and third watch refers to nighttime. This is why He said back in v. 35 that we are to keep our lamps burning. This doesn't mean we aren't supposed to sleep, but that while we live, we are “turned on” and ready to receive Him when He returns!

Luke 12:39: Jesus uses another illustration to make His point about readiness!

Q: When does a burglar typically break into a house? A: At night, when people are asleep and no one is watching! * Being watchful and in that ready position, however, would prevent the burglar from breaking in.

Luke 12:40: In the same way, Jesus says He is going to come at an hour we do not expect! THAT He is coming is certain. WHEN He is coming, we cannot know for sure. Our job isn't to know when, but to be in that “ready position”!

Q: Do you believe He could come back in 2023? How about even today? You bet! *

Luke 12:41: This seems to have gotten Peter thinking so he asks Jesus a question about who this teaching applies to.

Luke 12:42: But as we have seen Jesus do many times, He doesn't directly answer, but asks another question to keep Peter (and us) thinking. Let's see if we can answer His Q.

Q: What do good household servants do in the house while the master is gone? *

A: They would clean, prepare food, etc. They are supposed to be working and taking care of the master's home.

Luke 12:43-44: And Jesus agrees! So far, we've learned one aspect of the "ready position" is to be watching and waiting, but another aspect is to be working. Jesus expects His followers to be actually **following** Him in His work until He returns.

The last few weeks the Scriptures have taught us many of the things that Jesus wants us to be doing or "practicing" as Christians: Being thankful, praying, loving God, loving others. How wonderful it will be to be found doing these very things when Jesus returns!

Luke 12:45: Now Jesus gives a warning about ignoring His return. I bet everyone of you can identify with the temptation to do bad things when your parents are away!

Q: What do you think this servant deserves? A: Punishment, you bet!

Luke 12:46-47: Yikes! This sounds severe, but these servants get exactly what they deserve! * Maybe you are hearing this and are concerned this applies to you. Well, let's get one thing straight. If you have put your trust in Jesus, the Bible says you are His...period. We begin by faith and we finish by faith! (**Galatians 3:3**) These servants were never His as is evidenced by them not living for Him.

But Jesus would still challenge you to continue practicing your faith! If you are a believer in Jesus, you practice your faith not to earn His love, but BECAUSE you are loved! The Christian's primary desire is to be pleasing to Him! *

Luke 12:48: Jesus wraps this section up with a challenge to be faithful. The more God has given to us, the more He expects us to faithfully use those things (i.e. talents, money, abilities, etc.) in ways that are pleasing to Him! *

Key Point: At the beginning of our lesson we talked about many different "ready positions". And Jesus has now taught us that "readiness" is something else that we are to practice as Christians: readiness in watching and readiness in working. *

Q: How are you going to practice readiness today and throughout this week? *

Jesus could come back before you go back to school on Monday! Wouldn't you want Him to find you faithfully following Him when He returns? *

And maybe you were deeply challenged by Jesus's warning. If you are not a believer in Jesus, beware! Become a believer today. He treasured you enough to offer you forgiveness of your sins. Make Him your treasure (**Luke 12:34**) and start practicing readiness, because He IS going to return!

BRING IT HOME

Read Luke 12:40
How can you "practice readiness" for Jesus's return?

Parent Signature:

Parent Challenge:
If Jesus was coming back tonight, how would your life change?

Read Titus 2:11-14
We are saved by grace. How do we respond to this amazing grace?

