

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 226: SIGNS, END OF THE AGE & THE TRIBULATION
MATTHEW 24:3-28

Jesus left the Temple area and was walking away. But his disciples came to him to show him the Temple's buildings. He asked them, "Are you looking at these buildings? The fact is, they will be destroyed. Every stone will be thrown down to the ground. Not one stone will be left on another." Later, Jesus was sitting at a place on the Mount of Olives. The disciples came to be alone with him. They said, "Tell us when these things will happen. And what will happen to prepare us for your coming and the end of the age?" Jesus answered, "Be careful! Don't let anyone fool you. Many people will come in my name. They will say, 'I am the Messiah.' And they will fool many people. You will hear about wars that are being fought. And you will hear stories about other wars beginning. But don't be afraid. These things must happen before the end comes. Nations will fight against other nations. Kingdoms will fight against other kingdoms. There will be times when there is no food for people to eat. And there will be earthquakes in different places. These things are only the beginning of troubles, like the first pains of a woman giving birth. "Then you will be arrested and handed over to be punished and killed. People all over the world will hate you because you believe in me. During that time many believers will lose their faith. They will turn against each other and hate each other. Many false prophets will come and cause many people to believe things that are wrong. There will be so much more evil in the world that the love of most believers will grow cold. But the one who remains faithful to the end will be saved. And the Good News I have shared about God's kingdom will be told to the whole world to every nation. Then the end will come. "Daniel the prophet spoke about 'the terrible thing that causes destruction.' You will see this terrible thing standing in the holy place." (You who read this should understand what it means.) "The people in Judea at that time should run away to the mountains. They should run away without wasting time to stop for anything. If they are on the roof of their house, they must not go down to get anything out of the house. If they are in the field, they must not go back to get a coat. "During that time it will be hard for women who are pregnant or have small babies! Pray that it will not be winter or a Sabbath day when these things happen and you have to run away, because it will be a time of great trouble. There will be more trouble than has ever happened since the beginning of the world. And nothing as bad as that will ever happen again. "But God has decided

to make that terrible time short. If it were not made short, no one could survive. But God will make that time short to help the people he has chosen. "Someone might say to you at that time, 'Look, there is the Messiah!' Or someone else might say, 'There he is!' But don't believe them. False messiahs and false prophets will come and do great miracles and wonders, trying to fool the people God has chosen, if that is possible. Now I have warned you about this before it happens. "Someone might tell you, 'The Messiah is there in the desert!' But don't go into the desert to look for him. Someone else might say, 'There is the Messiah in that room!' But don't believe it. When the Son of Man comes, everyone will see him. It will be like lightning flashing in the sky that can be seen everywhere. It's like looking for a dead body: You will find it where the vultures are gathering above.

226. SIGNS, END OF THE AGE & THE TRIBULATION
MATTHEW 24:3-28

God is in control!



Jesus told His disciples about the signs of His coming and the end of the age. **MATTHEW 24:3-28**

226. SIGNS, END OF THE AGE & THE TRIBULATION

MATTHEW 24:3-28

MEMORY VERSE:

"But he who endures to the end shall be saved." MATTHEW 24:13

Review Questions

True or False

1. Jesus told His disciples to be careful that nobody fools them.
2. Jesus said, "Many will come in my name and say, 'I am the Messiah' and will fool many people.
3. But whoever remains faithful to the end will be lost.
4. There will be many wars and earthquakes near the end of the age.
5. The Good News will be preached to the whole world and to every nation, then the end will come.

Questions

1. What are some things that will happen before Jesus comes back?
(Let the children list some things):

There will be wars and you'll hear of more wars starting

People will hate believers

Nations will fight each other, and kingdoms will fight each other.

Many people will come and say they are the Messiah and fool a lot of people.

There will be times when there will be no food for people to eat.

There will be a lot of evil in the world

The Good News, or Gospel, will be told to the whole world

There will be "The terrible thing that causes destruction" in the holy place.

False prophets and false messiahs will come and do great signs and miracles.

2. Will God make these terrible times short? (YES!)
3. When Jesus comes back and everyone sees Him, what will it be like? (like lightning flashing across the sky quickly!)

Lesson 226 Activity

Start Packing!

Bring two empty suitcases (or duffel bags or you can use those cloth grocery bags, or if all else fails, use some Walmart plastic bags – there may be several in the kitchen) and two piles of things that a person might pack for a trip (clothes, toothbrushes, brush, comb, shoes, towels, pillows, etc). Include in each pile things that are not essential like candy and toys, a rock, etc.)

Put the two open suitcases on one end of the room and the two piles on the other. Divide your class into two teams and have them race to see who can pack the fastest for their trip. Tell them they can ONLY pack the most important things!

You may deduct points for things packed that are not essential (i.e. the candy and toys, etc.).

Again, reinforce that [Jesus wants us to be ready for His return](#). Explain to your class that the essentials for Jesus' return include our prayer life and Bible study, as well as living every day in a way that pleases God.

OPTIONAL CRAFT:

Go!

Cut out suitcases from construction paper (you can use the template provided to trace the shape). You will need enough suitcase cutouts to give each student two. Next, have the children color and cut out a shirt, a pair of shorts, and a pair of shoes from the templates provided. Paste these to one piece of the suitcase shaped construction paper and have the children write on them "prayer," "Bible study," "serving," "sharing." Staple the other piece of suitcase shaped construction paper over the first piece so that the suitcases open and close.

Explain once again that [Jesus wants us to be ready for His return](#).

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to live lives ready for the return of Jesus. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them a chance to do so.



Packing My Suitcase

Name: _____

