

*This midweek study will explore the doctrine of the second coming of Christ. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.*

### Essential Doctrine: Second Coming

The Bible is clear that one day Christ will return in bodily form (Matt. 24–25). The imminent return of Christ is the hope of every Christian, knowing that when Christ returns, all things will be made new. While many have speculated as to when Christ's return will take place, Scripture gives no timeline as to when it will occur, only assuring that it will be unexpected and glorious (Matt. 24:30; Matt. 25:8-10).

**1 Jesus' return will be a physical return to the earth with his angels and redeemed saints** (Mark 13:21-27; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:15-17; Rev. 19:11-16).

- ▶ What do you know about Jesus' return? What do you think it will be like?

#### Read Acts 1:11.

- ▶ How did the two men (probably angels) say Jesus will return? How did Jesus ascend? So how will He return?

#### Read Mark 13:21-27.

- ▶ How will we know if a so-called messiah is false, according to this text?
- ▶ How will Jesus return, according to this passage?
- ▶ Who will be with Him?

#### Read Revelation 19:11-16.

- ▶ What adjectives would you use to describe Jesus in His first coming?
- ▶ What adjectives would you use to describe Jesus' second coming?
- ▶ Some say Jesus came the first time as a lamb and will come again as a lion. Based on this passage, what do you think they mean?

**2 Jesus' return will accompany a remaking of heaven and earth into the new heavens and earth** (Isa. 65:17-25; Rom. 8:21; 2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 21:1).

- ▶ We've seen what becomes of Jesus' saints when He returns. What do you think happens to the physical world?

#### Read 2 Peter 3:10-13.

- ▶ Will we have warning about Jesus' return (v. 10)?
- ▶ What will happen to the old earth?
- ▶ What will be the main characteristic of the new heavens and earth?
- ▶ In the meanwhile, what kind of lives should we live while anticipating the new heavens and earth (vv. 11-12)?

#### Read Romans 8:21.

- ▶ How does this verse assure us that creation will not be annihilated, but remade into something glorious?

#### Read Isaiah 65:17-25 and Revelation 21:1.

- ▶ What kinds of things might those of us alive on the new heavens and new earth do?
- ▶ Would you like to be on these new heavens and new earth? Would you like your friends to be there? How do we get them there?

**3 Jesus' return will begin an eternal age of glorious, unsurpassed, ever-increasing happiness in himself** (2 Thess. 1:10; Rev. 21:1-7; 22:1-5).

- ▶ Someone tells you they don't really want to go to heaven because eternity will be boring. How would you respond?
- ▶ Why is Jesus returning? For what purpose?

#### Read 2 Thessalonians 1:10.

- ▶ According to Paul, why is Jesus coming back? How will the saints respond when Jesus returns?

#### Read Revelation 21:1-7.

- ▶ What will happen to all sad things?
- ▶ What kinds of hope and comfort should Christians anticipate?

#### Read Revelation 22:1-5.

- ▶ What further joys does this passage promise? What will Christians do with eternity?
- ▶ What would you say to people who say they don't want Jesus to come back until after they've been married or had kids?

### WRAP IT UP

- ▶ How does Jesus' return compel you to evangelize others? How does it encourage us to greater holiness?
- ▶ Name one change you'll make, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in your life this week in light of Jesus' return.