



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for November 29, 2009
Released on Wednesday, November 25, 2009**

"A Hopeful People"

Lesson Text: 2 Peter 3:1-13

Background Scripture: 2 Peter 3:1-18

Memory Verse: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise...but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9).

2 Peter 3:1-13

1 This second epistle beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Explain that as we wait for the Lord, we should be living godly lives and helping others believe in Jesus.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God will someday judge the earth.
2. We should do our best to live without sinning.
3. We should be telling people how to put their faith in Jesus.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS

For Telling the Lesson, bring or draw pictures of Noah's ark, the moon and stars, and flames.

For Helping to Remember, fold a sheet of construction paper in half; then open it up, turn it sideways, and draw scenery on it to make a backdrop. From poster board or card stock, cut out and color a figure of Jesus (like a paper doll) and glue a tab to its feet to help it stand up. Bring poster board or card stock, markers or crayons, glue, and safety scissors (blunt tip).

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student to review keywords from the lesson.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: A.D. 64

Place: unknown

The biblical prophets as well as Jesus said that unbelievers will laugh at us for trying to live right and for believing in Jesus. They will tell us we are hypocrites, but then they will do whatever they want and excuse their actions. Their rationalistic way of thinking holds that God will not judge the world because nothing like that has ever happened before.

They refuse to believe that after creating the world, God judged it by water in Noah's time. He will someday judge the wicked and then refine the earth by fire.

God may seem terribly slow about keeping His promise, but He is certainly able to do what He said He would do. Time means little to God, whether it is a thousand years or a day. Because God does not want anyone to perish, He is giving time for sinners to repent and believe.

The judgment is certain to come, but it will arrive when people least expect it. The heavens and the earth will be burned up.

Until the Lord's return and until the Judgment Day, we should be living holy lives, looking forward to the glorious new heavens and new earth, and growing in grace (cf. 2 Peter 3:14-18). People need to hear the gospel and see us live it out.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Sloane had just asked his older brother, James, to help him write a report for school.

"Sloane, you have not even decided on a subject, and the report is due tomorrow! It is too late now." James shook his head as he left the room.

Sloane sighed and got ready for bed. There was no point in doing anything now. He wished he had not waited so long to get started.

The next day after school, Sloane came to James again and said, "No one was ready; so the teacher gave us more time to finish our reports. I have decided what to write about and how to illustrate it. Will you help me?"

This time James was very willing. He said, "Deadlines often come too soon, even when we know about them. You should thank your teacher for allowing extra time."

Jesus is coming back to earth, but no one knows when. Also, God will judge the earth someday. God is delaying both of these events until more people believe in Jesus.

TELLING THE LESSON:

In his second letter, the Apostle Peter encouraged the believers of his day while they were waiting for Jesus to return. Peter's letter reminds us of what the Bible writers said and what Jesus said. As we live this life, there will come people who laugh at us because we try to live right. They will do every wrong thing they feel like doing, and they will laugh at the truth of Jesus.

These people who laugh at us will say, "Where is God now? Your God does not care anything about the world. If Jesus wanted to come back, He would have done it already. Nothing different is ever going to happen."

They forget that God destroyed the world by a great flood in the days of Noah (show picture). After this God promised Noah that he would not destroy the world by water again – the next time God will destroy the world by fire, and all ungodly people will be destroyed.

It may seem that the Lord Jesus is being terribly slow about keeping His promise to return, but time means little to God whether it is a thousand years or a day. There is a very good reason He is waiting. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, and He is giving time for sinners to confess their sins and trust in Jesus.

The Day of Judgment will surely come - at a time when no one is expecting it. Then the sun and stars (show picture) will be destroyed with a loud noise, and the earth will be burned up (show picture). What holy lives we should be living! We should be looking forward to the new heavens and new earth that God has promised. Then there will be only goodness and no sin or sorrow.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Another event that will occur at an unknown time is the return of the Lord Jesus to reward those who have trusted Him to forgive their sins. As we wait for Jesus to return, we should try hard to live without sinning (2 Peter 3:14-18). We also should be at peace with God by confessing when we do sin. Most important, we should tell people that they can trust Jesus to save them from punishment for their sins.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Have each student cut out a figure from poster board or card stock to represent modern people; glue a tab on the feet of each one to make it stand up (like a paper doll). Color the figure with markers or crayons. Arrange the figures in front of your prepared backdrop. Then dramatically bring your figure of Jesus down from above to stand among them as you explain that at some unknown time, Jesus will return to rule over the earth.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise... but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish" (II Peter 3:9).

Jesus is not weak; He is able to keep His promise to return to earth. He is patiently delaying His return so that as many people as possible will have an opportunity to hear the gospel and be saved. He does not want anyone to be lost.

CONCLUSION:

Since we know that Christ could return quickly, we ought to live our lives in readiness. We would not want to be ashamed at His coming. God has given us many promises that He plans to keep us safe, no matter what happens. We are safe, whether Christ returns before this lesson is finished, next week, next year or tens or hundreds of years from now. This is the blessed hope for the believer.

Until Christ comes, we should be waiting for Him with the same joyful expectation we would have as we wait for special company. Our hearts are right. We have obeyed God's commands. We have witnessed to those around us. We wait and hope for His return knowing that we will spend eternity with our Saviour.

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank You for the promises in Your Word. Help us to wait and hope for the return of Jesus and to be ready when He comes, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "The Lineage of David" and will show how the birth of Christ fulfilled prophecy. Study Ruth 4:13-17 and Matthew 1:1-17.

LESSONS SUMMARIZED BY:

Renee Little
Jesus Is All Ministries
www.jesusisall.com

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WORD SEARCH

"A Hopeful People" (2 Peter 3:1-13)

Find the following keywords from the lesson:

FLOOD

HOPEFUL

RIGHTEOUS

LAUGH

EARTH

STARS

HEAVENS

JUDGMENT

SUN

HOLY

PERISH

REMEMBER

PEOPLE

PROMISE

LETTER

FIRE

T U E O E E I S U P S E M E S E Y L O H U P L
N R B M I V N H T O O M P F E E G M S I D O F
E H P T E H R F T A O R F P E R H M T N P O A
M L U A A J E L I M R P E H B H E J E M E O R
G R L L H O P E F U L S D E E E P Y F R L R S
D R F P E H E H E E E V A P A A J E M T D R O
U E E O T P G E S U N S F U N V E A O L R E E
J B E R S R T F E G R P I F E E F I R E E M L
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S E S D A E F P M D T T E R O S U R P B F M O
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U R F E E O M L H O J H T T S H S I R E P O H
E A M M E E E A O R E T S E P D E S H R O H E
H E I E A P A D A T S I T L T L R N I P S I T
F E P S P T O O E T E P E E E P S R E H E L H

Solution to Word Search
"A Hopeful People" (2 Peter 3:1-13)

T S Y L O H
N T
E A
M R H
G H O P E F U L S E
D R H E A
U E T S U N S V
J B R I E F I R E
M A R I G H T E O U S M N
E E R O S
M L F E R H G U A L
E P L T P
R O O T H S I R E P
E O E
P D L