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If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. John 8:36

RRR Series: Redemption; Resolve; and the Return.

Classroom & Arena Style Lessons

LITTLE WRANGLERS

Redemption Messages:

#1 Hard Question/Easy Answer

#2 Living Free or Free Living

#3 Redeemed from What to What?

Resolve Messages:

#1 Stand your Ground

#2 Resolved to Lift up Jesus

#3 What Does God Expect of Us?

Return Messages:

#1 Ready or Not!

#2 Rapture & Banquet

#3 The Judgments

#4 Forever & Ever, Amen!

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Little Wranglers

THE RETURN LESSON #1: Ready or Not

Jeremiah 8:20 *The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.*

Illustration:

Classroom: *Bring seeds and Bring produce such as apples, fall greens, any type of produce. Bring a handful of weeds as well. Talk about a harvest or a gathering from an orchard or a garden. Towards the end of growing season many times there are weeds. But you don't want to eat the weeds; you want to eat the produce.*

There is a different kind of Harvest coming. This one is planned by Jesus and all of the people that belong to Jesus are the produce. He's coming for the produce & the weeds are left behind.

TO THE TEACHER:

Read Matthew 13: 24-40 and Matthew 13: 37-43 in preparation for this lesson.

Be ready to summarize the story for the students during the lesson presentation.

Introduction:

Jeremiah 8:20 *The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.*

In the times of Jeremiah the Prophet when this verse was written and up until about 100 years ago, much of a person's life was spent growing crops so that people could feed themselves.

Planting seed and the time of harvest was very important because their lives depended on it.

There were no grocery stores and only seasonal markets that carried locally grown produce. This verse meant something very "real" to these people.

Time to get out into the fields planting:

Jesus told his disciples a story that we call a parable. This is simply a story where things represent things, like a picture story only without drawing the pictures.

Have you ever played Hide and Seek? Someone is "it" and has to count to ten and then says: Ready or not here I come. If you are not ready yet, you most likely will not win the game.

Jesus tells us a story about being READY for Him to come back! He is coming back! Maybe today! Maybe tomorrow! But He IS coming back!

In this story we learn that we need to be busy telling others about Jesus because we are about out of time!

[Have a package of seeds to whatever produce you have available. Place this for the students to see. Have your produce available. Have some weeds available.]

Jesus tells us a parable [a story] in [*Matthew 13: 24-30*](#).

24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

A farmer went out and planted the seed in his field, but while he was asleep along came his enemy and planted some weeds right in the same field.

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

As soon as the little plants came up, so did the weeds! So his farm hands said, I know you planted the right seeds in the ground; so where did these weeds come from? The farmer said: It was our enemy!

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

The farmer's farm hands wanted to go pull out the weeds. But the weeds LOOKED TOO MUCH LIKE THE WHEAT! And he said: Don't go pull up anything out of the ground because we might pull up the wheat as well as the weeds.

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

The farmer says to wait until everything is all grown up and then take out the weeds first; then get the wheat.

Jesus then explains what all of this means in this story in [*Matthew 13: 37-43*](#).

37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; [He means Jesus.]

38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

This is not a hard story to understand.

The Lord also tells us that we should not waste time because the harvest is coming soon.

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

Jesus is coming back. When He does, all of the people that have Jesus in their heart as Savior will be “harvested.” That means that He is coming to take them to Heaven with Him.

Are you ready for the Harvest?

When Jesus comes back for His people, there will be some people left behind on the earth that He will not be taking with Him. They were not “ready” for Him to come back because they have not accepted Jesus into their hearts as Savior.

There will be people that look very similar to the wheat [the real Christians] but they are not wheat. You won’t be able to fool anyone at the Harvest.

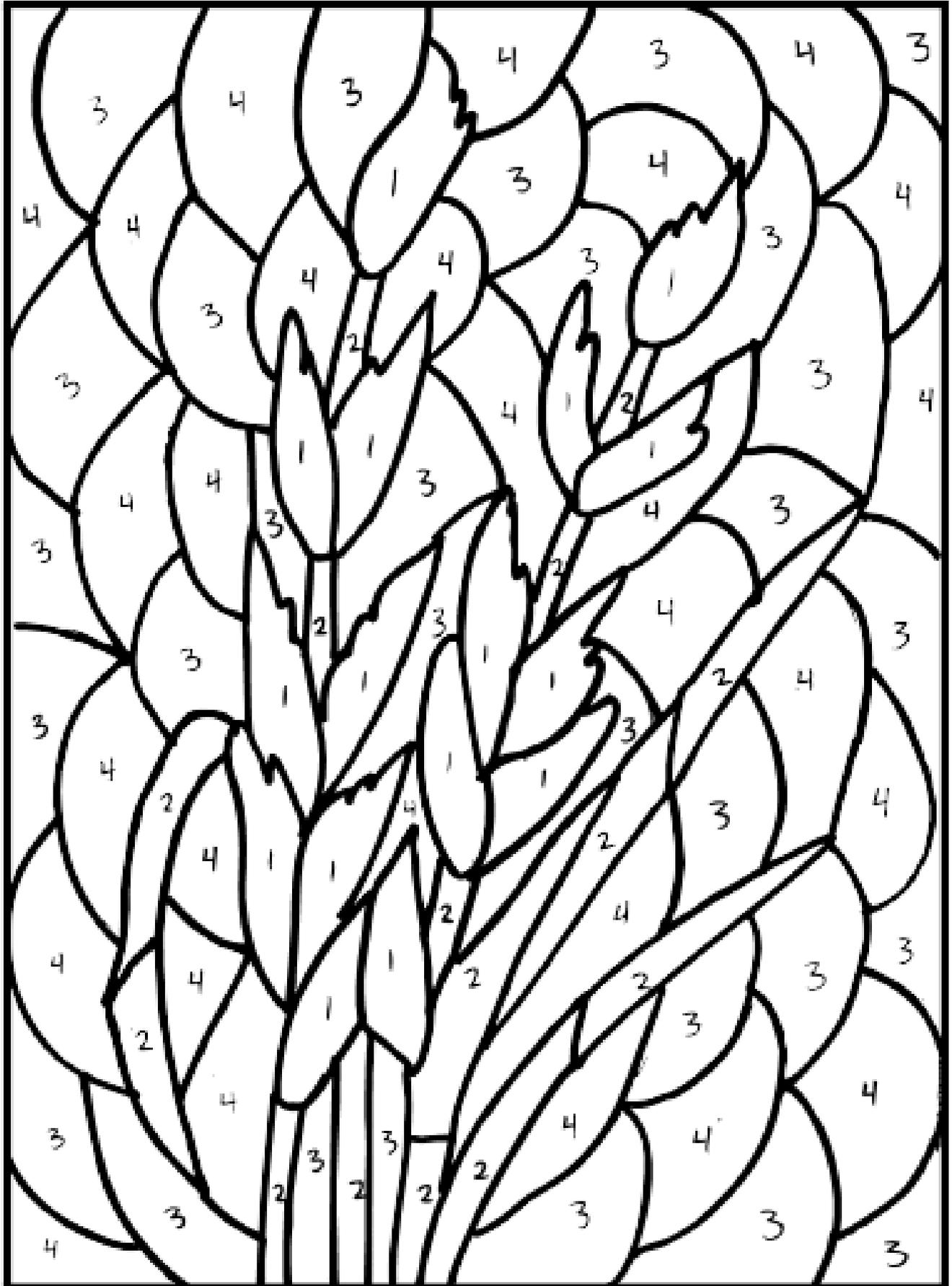
Ready or not, Jesus is coming soon.

Activity

Color by number sheet follows. It is hard to see which is wheat and which are tares until the picture is complete. This is a COPIED Activity Sheet from Biblewise.com. We recommend you go to their site for further information regarding this worksheet origination and copyright. It is a FREE download. Since we do not charge for anything that we have, we offer this as a reference page with much gratitude to the original artist.

What Color is the Wheat?

Color in the image by coloring: 1. Yellow 2. Orange 3. Purple 4. Blue





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Little Wranglers THE RETURN LESSON #2: Rapture & a Banquet

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Illustration:

Make this a Campfire Lesson complete with marshmallows.

Introduction:

Everyone is curious about the future.

The fairy tale stories are full of people that wanted a crystal ball that looked into the future.

The Bible has a lot to say about fortune tellers and soothsayers, witches, and wizards. None of the news is good concerning them.

The Bible is true, not like your story books. It has a lot to say about a **real and promised future.**

Rapture:

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Jesus told us that an event is coming. This event is called The Rapture by a lot of people.

There are movies by that name; there are books and sermons with all kinds of opinions and ideas on just WHEN and HOW this event is going to take place.

But I want to stick to what we KNOW about this event from the Bible. After all, this is God's event and all the guessing in the world won't change what He has planned for this event.

So what is this event all about?

We are living in a time called the CHURCH AGE.

TO THE TEACHER:

Read 1 Corinthians 15: 51-53 in preparation for today's lesson.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

The emphasis in the lesson is on the Rapture event of the Church and the Celebration in Heaven for 7 years.

This simply means we are living in a time between when Jesus went back to Heaven and when He will be coming for all of His people in the event commonly referred to as THE RAPTURE. This will happen when the angel sounds his trumpet!

Just like Jesus' birth was foretold all throughout the Old Testament, this event is foretold in the same way. *[When we teach we often hold up the Bible and point to sections, like the Old Testament, to affirm that everything we are talking about is based on the Bible.]*

According to the Bible we are to be looking for the Trumpet to sound at any time! All the prophecies of the Bible have come true and right on time. This one will not be any different. It will happen and it will be on time.

When the Trumpet sounds, all of Jesus' people will go to Heaven immediately without dying! No funeral, no sad memorial services will be needed. That's the good news.

But the really bad news, the really sad news is that all of the people that do not belong to Jesus will be left on the earth to face a terrible time in History.

Seven year Banquet :

After the Christians are taken up into Heaven when the trumpet sounds then they will be at a BIG banquet called the **Marriage Supper of the Lamb**.

While the Christians are in Heaven, there is a terrible GREAT TRIBULATION [a really bad time] going on down on the earth.

Revelation 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

People that belong to Jesus are called the Bride of Christ. Marriage is used as a symbol of our relationship to Jesus. This is one reason that a correct understanding of marriage is essential to the Christian.

When we think of people getting married, we think about a lady in a white dress, about flowers, and about having to get dressed up. You may have even been part of a marriage ceremony as a flower girl or a ring bearer. It's like a big party.

Back in the time that Jesus was on the earth, the Jewish tradition of marriage was a three part process.

First, the man and the lady were betrothed or engaged. This was not like what people consider it to be in our culture today.

It meant they were already contracted through a legal process agreed upon by both families and themselves. But they were not to live together yet.

The second step in the process happened a year later, when the bridegroom and some of his guy friends, went to the house of the bride at midnight, creating a torchlight parade through the streets.

The bride would know in advance this was going to take place, and so she would be ready with her lady friends, and they would all join the parade and end up at the bridegroom's home.

Teachers Note: This custom is the basis of the parable of the ten virgins in [Matthew 25:1–13](#).

The third phase was the marriage supper itself, which might go on for days.

So let's talk about the Marriage Supper that Jesus wants to invite us to if we let Him into our hearts as Savior.

The Bride of Christ is invited to the marriage supper that will take place in Heaven. Jesus is the LAMB of GOD. He was the supreme perfect sacrifice for our sins. **This will be a seven year party!**

After the banquet, the **Marriage Supper of the Lamb**, then we will be saddling up to ride back on horses with Jesus to witness the Battle of Armageddon where King Jesus is the Victor.

Can you imagine everybody in Heaven saddling up at the same time?

The smell of horses, the smell of leather tack, boots in stirrups, horses anxiously moving around getting into position for the ride; all these visions come to mind. But the most exciting thing of all will be King Jesus as He mounts onto His white horse.

The Bible says that His Leggings [His chaps] will read: **King of Kings and Lord of Lords**.

Revelation 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords.

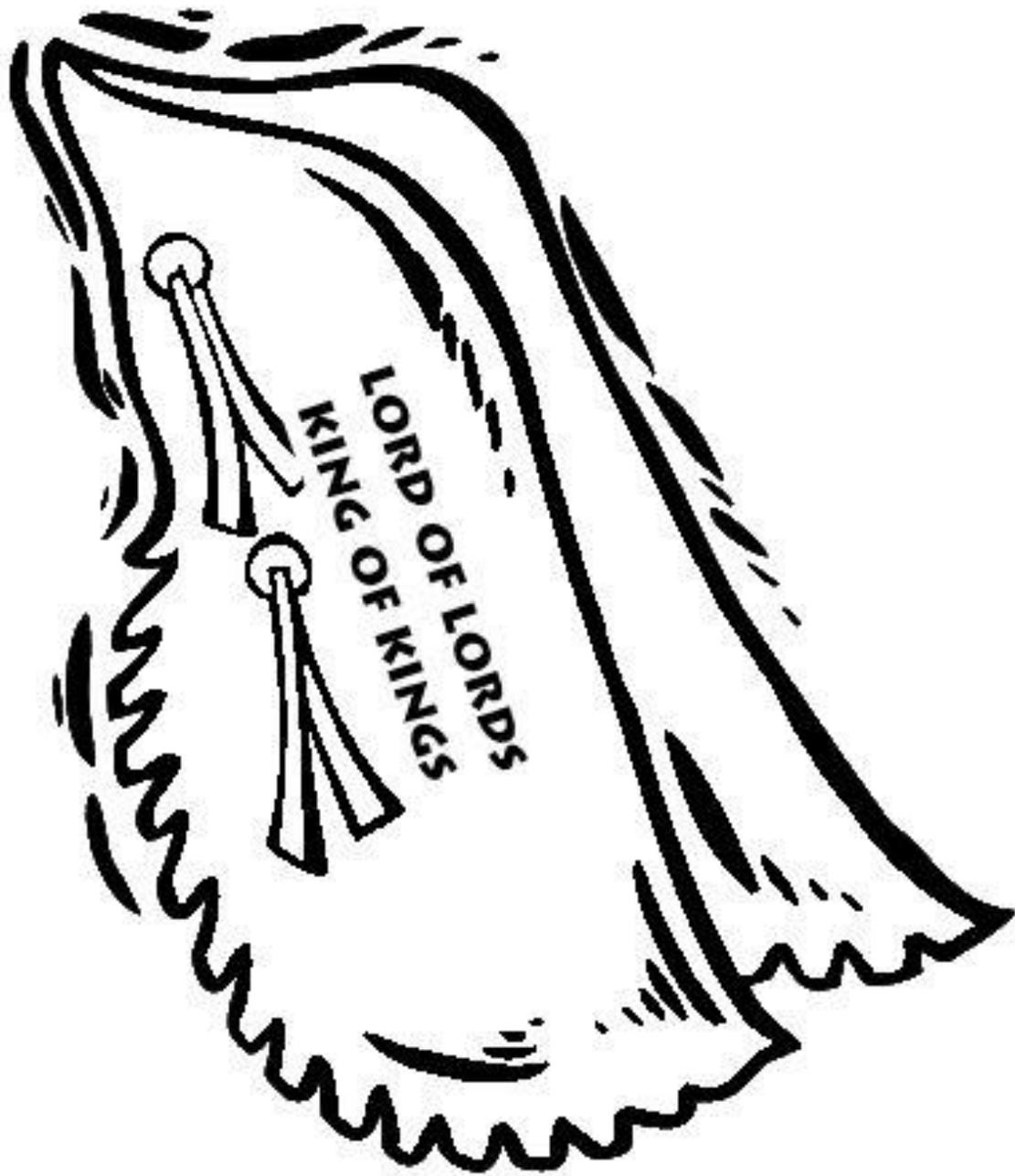
Activity: Have either a pretend campfire setup inside or a real campfire setup & roast marshmallows while you talk about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and what it will be like:

- Who will be invited to the Marriage Supper?
- Who is the Bride of Christ?
- Who is the Bridegroom?
- Where is this Supper going to be at?

Alternate Activity: Color Chaps or Leggings from paper with the phrase: King of Kings written down them as a brand.

Revelation 19:16

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King of Kings,
And Lord of Lords.





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Little Wranglers THE RETURN LESSON #3: The Judgments

1 Corinthians 3: 12-15 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Illustration:

This message can be illustrated inside a classroom or outside.

Outside Style: A few weeks in advance promote a small scale sheep, horse, or goat show. Arrange to have a judge for the mini-event. This should be an **illustration "event"** and include only a few animals. Prizes should be small such as a ribbon for placing. Some of your students may participate with their own animals. Keep it fairly small scale and simple.

Classroom setting: Bring pictures or a video of a judging event for sheep, horses, cattle, goats or hogs. Some of your student may have participated in 4-H for example. They may have pictures, ribbons, or other trophies they can share as part of your illustration.

Introduction:

You hear people say "Don't Judge."

While there is way too much judging by people about people, there is also something called "discernment."

Discernment is sound judgment. Discernment can keep you from getting into trouble and from bad situations.

God gave us all a brain and He expects us to put on our thinking caps! You must DECIDE or JUDGE when something is wrong or harmful. This is not bad judgment but rather this is good judgment.

But as far as someone trying to pass Judgment about what I am thinking, or WHY I do some things, that really can only be "judged" by the One True Judge.

To the Teacher:

As adults & especially as children we only think of JUDGING in a couple of ways: As something positive like with a contest OR as something negative like putting people down.

In this lesson try to convey that the only TRUE judge WILL judge.

Try to convey that Jesus also gives us a brain to put our thinking caps on and "judge" when something is RIGHT and when it is WRONG or HARMFUL.

The Bible, God's Word, talks about Judgment. In the Bible, God tells us about several different "judgments" that are coming. Each of you as well as me will be in a "judgement" someday.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

Today we are only talking about one of the very special Judging coming in Heaven one day.

This is sometimes called the Judgment seat of Christ. It is strictly for the people that belong to Jesus. This is the one you should want to be at.

At this one, Jesus will be checking to see what you did in His Name and for Him.

And the ribbons, prizes, and trophies and crowns are" out of this world."

And the best part is we give them BACK to Jesus. After all, He is the reason we have accomplished anything!

1 Corinthians 3: 12-15 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Foundation in this illustration in **1 Corinthians**.

Whatever we do that is "good" (for example like obeying parents, telling others about Jesus, or helping a little old lady across the street) we consider these as good works. You may be a good citizen and obey the laws of the land. This is "good works." You may be kind to animals, obey your parents, clean your room, and wash behind your ears.

But at the Judgment Seat of Christ our "works" are put to the "test." It's a test of fire according to this scripture.

If what we have done for Christ is done with the purpose and intent of obeying God and for His glory, then this you can safely say is like the Gold or Silver or Precious Stones.

However, if we have done lots of good things just to get the praise of people, you can safely say it will be burned up like wood, hay, or stubble. Your intentions show up at this Judgment. The reason you do right things shows up in this judgment.

For example, sometimes we do things just to keep out of trouble with the parents. Your attitude may still be bad. Suppose your mom tells you to pick up your toys. If you obey because you know it is right to obey and do so with a good attitude that is one thing. But what if you do it and you really are giving her dirty looks behind her back and you really hide part of the toys rather than put them away because you do not want to mind her at all! We are all old enough here to understand that is a bad attitude! You may have obeyed, but it was with a bad attitude.

There are also rewards handed out at this Judgment. God looks at the heart! Be sure your heart is right with God. It will make a difference at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

I want to hear Jesus say:

Matthew 25:21a Well done, thou good and faithful servant...

Activity:

Charades:

As a Class or in small groups, have the students act out a few scenarios. Ask the students if this is showing a good attitude or a bad attitude.

Bring hats, clothes, items that can be used in these scenarios to help them get into the Charade Game.

Examples of possible scenarios:

1. Place toys on the floor at random places. Have a student dress up like a parent. Have three students be the “children.” Have the “parent” tell the “children” that it is time to pick up their toys. In advance, tell one child to be the obedient child and another to be stubborn and ignore the parent and continue to play. Have the third child to obey but do it while doing it with a BAD attitude like grumbling and complaining or whining or giving dirty looks to the parent. Talk about the correct response. Which response is the RIGHT one? You just made a judgment call!
2. Have a Tablet or IPAD with a game for two or more students to play. Tell them they must SHARE their time. They will quickly become engaged in the game. Have one student dressed as the “parent” that will tell them to share or to turn off the Tablet. While they are getting the game going and getting involved talk to the rest of the students about “time” on the computer. Do your parents ever have to tell you **TWICE** that time is up? Or to come to dinner? Or to turn it off? Or that it is time to SHARE with the other siblings? Watch as this scenario develops into a teaching moment. Which attitudes are correct? You just made a judgment call.



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Little Wranglers THE RETURN LESSON #4: Forever and Ever AMEN!

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain:

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

To the Teacher:

In preparation for this lesson, please read Revelation 21 and 22.

Introduction:

This lesson will focus on what Forever will be like. This is a message of hope and encouragement that is not based on speculation, but upon what we find in the Word.

Everlasting Life & What it is NOT:

People are different than other creations. We each have a "soul." That soul will spend forever somewhere.

When people die, it is common to hear people say that they are now angels. This is not found anywhere in the Bible.

In fact, the Bible says that the Christians will one day rule over angels.

1 Corinthians 6:3a Know ye not that we shall judge angels? ...

I cannot think of one reason I would want to step down from my position of a son or daughter of God down to the position of an angel.

So let's be clear: We **don't** spend eternity sitting on a puffy cloud playing a harp transformed into an angel.

Everlasting Life per the Bible:

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

We DO know that there is a “mansion” prepared for each saved person in Heaven. This part of the Bible was written the first time in a language called Greek. In our country we often hear people speak in English and sometimes we hear Spanish words as well. Greek is just another language.

The Greek word that we say as “mansion” there does not mean a fancy million dollar house with an indoor pool. It simply means a permanent dwelling place. You could think of it as “in my Father’s Palace...” or home there are many permanent rooms.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Just as a matter of explanation, I tell people all the time what is in my “room.” I will have the Smokey Mountains on one side and the Rockies on the other. My room is so big and so beautiful that while I am living on this earth, there is no way that I can comprehend how vast, how beautiful, or how wonderful my “room” is in Heaven. Do I know what my “mansion” really looks like? No, I do not. But I do know that He has been preparing it for over 2000 years now.

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

What about all the talk about streets of gold and walls of Jasper? What about a crystal sea of water coming out of the Throne of God? Isn’t there the Tree of Life also in the middle of Heaven?

All true per ***Revelation chapters 21 & 22.*** [Read portions appropriate to your time constraints.]

Revelation 22: 1-5 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Many times we are asked if our favorite horse will be in Heaven. That question I can only answer with what I do know.

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Revelation 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

This indicates that Jesus Himself owns horses and they are present in Heaven. This vision of John was not what he saw on earth, but what He saw in Heaven.

Activity:

Give the students a blank white sheet of paper. Have them draw what Heaven looks like. As they do this, walk around and discuss what the BIBLE says about Heaven and compare it to what they THINK that Heaven is all about.