

★ The Trumpet Shall Sound

We Shall All Be Changed ★

Lesson 1

1

The Teacher's Preparation

Scripture Passages to Study: I Thessalonians 4-5

Study Guide: Read "The Trumpet Shall Sound: We Shall All Be Changed" from *New Testament Highlights - Part 2*.

Lesson Objective: The fact that the rapture is the next event on God's prophetic calendar is more certain than the law of gravity. The law of gravity is a scientific fact defined by man; the rapture is a prophetic certainty declared by God, who cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18).

Lesson Application: Jesus is coming again soon. Am I ready to meet Him? Have I been saved? Is my life right with Him?

Memory Verse: I Corinthians 15:51



"THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MINE HEART..."

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

—I Corinthians 15:51

The Teacher's Checklist

- Activity Worksheets and Pencils
- Attendance and Record Notebook
- Lesson Plan
- Cue Card
- Memory Verse Card
- Music Player
- Visual Illustrations for the Lesson
- Attention Getter: Jack in the Box

Teacher Tips

Get the students moving. Incorporate movement into the activities as much as possible. Kids will move during class. It's much better to control that movement than to let it happen "their way."

The Teacher's Lesson Plan

Materials: Jack in the Box

You could also use another item that illustrates being unexpectedly surprised (i.e., a game timer, etc.).

What You Could Say:

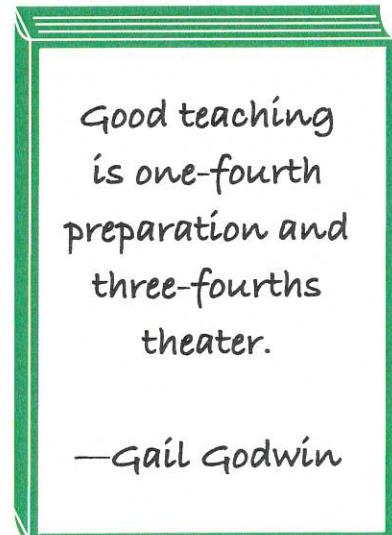
To be *scared* of something and to be *surprised* by something are two completely different things. Perhaps you are scared of riding fast roller coasters or climbing tall ladders. Maybe you are scared of big, hairy spiders or the red-haired bully at school. To be scared of something means that you do not have the courage yet to be near it. As you get older, you will find that the things that you were afraid of when you were younger will not scare you any longer. That is just a part of growing up.

Now, to be surprised by something means that you did not expect that particular event to happen. Sometimes, families and friends will throw surprise birthday parties for one another. Father comes home from work, expecting a quiet family evening. He opens the door to find all of his family and friends in the living room. What do you think everyone would shout? That's right—"Surprise!" Most of the time, surprises are wonderful and very fun; but they are always unexpected.

Today, I brought with me a Jack in the Box. [Show them how the toy works as you speak.] You turn the handle, and music plays. At any time, the Jack in the Box will... pop! Oh my, I was not prepared for that! Let me ask you this: did the toy scare you or surprise you? Think carefully. We have no reason to be scared or afraid of the Jack in the Box—it is just a toy! The toy *surprised* us, because we did not know when Jack would pop. We *still* do not know when it will pop—and we will be surprised each time we play with it.

In today's lesson, we will learn about the rapture—what it is, who is part of it, and many other things. If you have asked Jesus Christ to save you from hell, you do not need to be scared or afraid of the rapture; but *when* it happens, it will be a surprise to us all.

Teacher's Notes



★ The Trumpet Shall Sound

We Shall All Be Changed

1st - 3rd Grade
Lesson 1

On his second missionary journey, Paul took Silas with him to the city of Thessalonica. He told these people about Jesus. Many of them believed and were saved. After he left their city, Paul wrote two letters to them, I and II Thessalonians.

These Christians were persecuted because of their faith in Jesus. And some of them had died. Paul wanted to encourage them. He told them, “Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (I Thessalonians 4:18).

What were Paul’s words of comfort? Paul told them that there would be a time when, whether Christians had died or were still living, all Christians would see Jesus. He told them that Jesus was going to come and take all of His children to heaven. This event is called “the rapture.”

The word *rapture* means “to be carried away.” Someday, Jesus will carry all of His children away to be with Him in heaven. I Thessalonians tells us *who* will go to heaven and *how* we will go there. But there is one question Paul could not answer in his letter to the Christians at Thessalonica: *When* will the rapture happen?

Who Will Be Raptured?

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him... Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

—I Thessalonians 4:14, 17

Only those who have asked Jesus to save them and forgive their sins will go to heaven. Believers who have died will be the first ones to meet Jesus—people like Adam, Abraham, Noah, and the Apostle Paul. Then, all believers who are alive will meet Jesus in the air. We will all go to be with Him in heaven forever.

How Will We Be Raptured?

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.

—I Thessalonians 4:16

We will hear three sounds when Jesus calls us to heaven: His voice, a trumpet sound, and the voice of the archangel. Everyone who is saved will hear those sounds. Then we will rise together into the clouds. Can you imagine what it will be like to be suddenly flying up into the air?

