

★ 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

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



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

—I Corinthians 15:51

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

Good teaching
is one-fourth
preparation and
three-fourths
theater.

—Gail Godwin

The Trumpet Shall Sound

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 1

We Shall All Be Changed

In our last book, we learned about a few events that happened during Paul's missionary journey. We learned about some of the places he went and people he met. Paul had a friend named Silas that he took with him on his second missionary journey. Paul and Silas went to a city called Thessalonica. Many people in Thessalonica were saved after Paul and Silas preached to them about Jesus.

Later, Paul wrote a letter to the Christians in Thessalonica. This lesson is about the letters that Paul wrote them. We know these letters to be the books of I and II Thessalonians.

The Christians in Thessalonica were being persecuted for believing in Jesus. Paul wrote them letters to be an encouragement to them. He told them that Jesus was going to come back someday and take His people to heaven. This event is called "the rapture."

The word *rapture* means, "to be carried away." Jesus is going to carry away all those who have put their faith and trust in Him. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians telling them *who* was going to be raptured, *how* it was going to happen, and *when* it would occur.

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

The Bible tells us that when Jesus comes back, all those who are saved will go back to heaven with Him. It is going to be an amazing event! Those who have been given the gospel, but did not receive it, will not be able to get saved after the rapture. Only people who have still never heard the gospel will be able to get saved after the rapture. For this reason, it's important that we make sure we are saved. It is also important that we try to give the gospel to as many people as we can so that, when Jesus comes back for His children, there will be more people to go to heaven.

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: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 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 4:16-17

We know who is going to be raptured, but Paul also wrote in his letter how we're going to be raptured. The Bible tells us that there will be a shout from the archangel, and then the trumpet of God will sound. Sometimes we sing songs in church about listening for the trumpet. We do that because, as Christians, we need to listen for the trumpet of God to sound because that means Jesus is coming back!

After the trumpet sounds, and the angel shouts, the Bible says that we will be caught up in the air with Jesus. Jesus will take us to heaven, and we will be with Him forever!

When Will We Be Raptured?

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

—I Thessalonians 5:2

Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning.

—Mark 13:35

The Bible tells us that no one knows exactly when Jesus is going to come back. No one knows what day it will be. It may be in the winter, or it may be in the summer. Although we don't know exactly when, the Bible tells us that the rapture will happen before a great war takes place on earth. There will be earthquakes and famines. Many strange things will happen after the rapture during a period of time called the Tribulation. The rapture will take place before the Tribulation. Those who have been saved will not have to go through the world war on earth that happens during the Tribulation.

Conclusion

We shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump.

—I Corinthians 15:51-52

The Bible tells us that we will be changed when we are taken into heaven with Jesus. We are going to be given a new body and a new spirit! We will live in a perfect place where there is no sickness or sorrow. That is very exciting! We should live each day as if it may be the day that Jesus comes back. We need to tell many people about Jesus so that they can be raptured too! While we wait for Jesus to come back, we should make sure that our hearts are right with God. But, the most important thing we need to do is make sure that we know Jesus as our personal Savior. We need to ask Him to forgive our sins and save us so that, some day when He comes back, we can meet Him in the air!