

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

EPISODE 10: MESSIAH RETURNS

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Main Points

Here are the big ideas you want people to understand:

- We are living in a period of time between Jesus' two comings
- Disciples of Jesus have been entrusted with growing his interests on the Earth while he is away
- Jesus will be made king; he will soon return to rule over the Earth; we want to be ready and we want to help others be ready for that day

EXPLORING THE STORY

◀ Look Back

Before diving into this week's session, give the group a chance to share and catch up to see where each person is at. Start with the following:

1. One-up (or One-down)

Invite each person to share one thing that has happened over the past week that they are grateful for (or, they can share one thing that has been weighing on them)

2. Prayer

Have a time of prayer and thanksgiving based on what was shared

3. Review

Quickly summarize where we've been before moving into this week's story:

“ **Last time...** Jesus was raised from the dead and appeared to his followers. He gave them a mission: to live for him and to make disciples of all nations until he returned. Jesus' followers today still operate under these standing orders and are called to be part of his mission. We ended last time with Jesus ascending into heaven and his disciples being promised that he would one day return the same way he had left.

▲ Look Up

Now that you've reviewed where we've been, shift to this week's episode.

4. Setting the Stage

“ Jesus prepared his disciples for the time when he would depart the Earth. He wanted them to understand the bigger story that they were now a part of and the timeline of how future events were going to play out.

As we read, be thinking about these things:

- Why did Jesus teach his disciples this lesson?
- How does this picture of Jesus match or differ from your previous ideas about him?

5. Read **Luke 19.11-27; Revelation 19.11-21** and then discuss:

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- What do you like about this reading? What bothers you?
 - Why did Jesus tell the story about the nobleman who went to a far country to be made king? (Luke 19.11)
 - What do the different parts of the story represent? Who is the nobleman? The slaves? The citizens? What do the minas (the silver) represent?
 - How is Jesus described in Revelation 19?
 - How does the picture of Jesus in Luke 19 and Revelation 19 match or differ from your previous ideas about him?

► Look Ahead

Help people process the implications of this week's reading and how they should apply its truths to the way they think and live.

6. Implications and Applications

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- The first thing the king will do when he returns is call his servants and find out how they have invested and increased the things he entrusted to them.
 - What should change in the way you are living so that you are ready to stand before Jesus when he returns?

7. Closing Prayer