

## Volume 12 (SUM15) Adult-Kid Connections

### Unit 36, Session 2: Christ's Return Is Anticipated

*2 Thessalonians 1–3*

#### **Christ Connection:**

**Preschool:** No one knows when Jesus will return except for God. But Christians should be ready for Him. When Jesus comes back, people who do not believe in Him will be punished for their sin. But everyone who trusts in Jesus will be rescued!

**Kids:** No one but God knows when Jesus will return, but Christians should be ready for Him. When Jesus returns, unbelievers will be punished for their sin and those who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior will be saved.

**Adults:** Consider the following Voices quote.

*Voices from the Church*

“Jesus tells us that our response to the most vulnerable among us is a response to Jesus Himself (Matt. 25:40). God will judge those who exploit workers and mistreat the poor. No matter how invisible they seem to us now, God hears (Isa. 3:15; Amos 4:1; Jas. 5:4).”

—Russell D. Moore, “Immigration and the Gospel,” Moore to the Point [online], 17 June 2011 [cited 9 September 2014]. Available from the Internet: [www.russellmoore.com](http://www.russellmoore.com).

Christ's return informs what we do with our time, and one thing we should be doing in view of His return is extending grace to our neighbors, particularly in the form of hospitality.

Extending grace to people in need is a double dose of grace; it's grace for those who receive it and for those who extend it. Both sides of the equation get to experience the goodness of God and the love of the church.

But this is not just a practice we extend to people who are like us. Instead, we're called to extend hospitality to all kinds of people who are totally unlike us. As Jesus said in Luke 14:12-14:

*12 He also said to the one who had invited Him, “When you give a lunch or a dinner, don't invite your friends, your brothers, your relatives, or your rich neighbors, because they might invite you back, and you would be repaid. 13 On the contrary, when you host a banquet, invite those who are poor, maimed, lame, or blind. 14 And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”*

The reward, we're told, for blessing those who can never repay us comes at the resurrection, when we see the faces of those we've loved and served sharing in glory, feasting at the wedding supper of the Lamb. It may well be that the water or the meal we shared, the roof we provided, the kindness we showed to a stranger was the moment they were introduced to the kindness and mercy of Christ. What a joyful reward that will be—to see how God allowed our extension of His grace to bring sinners home!

Materials: Calendar

Using a calendar, direct your family to find each family member's birthday and mark it on the calendar. Find other specific holidays on the calendar. Recall the Bible story about Jesus' return.

Ask: "What did Paul tell the church at Thessalonica about Jesus' return?"

Remind your kids that no one knows when Jesus will return except God Himself. Some people told the church at Thessalonica that Jesus had already returned, and they had missed Him. Paul assured them that Jesus had not yet returned, but Christians must be ready for Him to come back soon. While they waited, Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to keep working for God.

Ask: "What were some things Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to do while they waited?"

Recall that Paul wanted the people to be strong in their faith and to not grow weary in doing good. He told them to pray for others around the world and pray that the gospel would spread. Paul warned the people to keep working hard because some had gotten lazy.

Think about some of the things you may have let slide while you wait for Jesus to return. Is your family dealing with some problems caused by sinful choices?

Acknowledge areas where your family struggles and repent. Continue to pray for those who do not believe in Jesus and ask God to rescue them from their sin.

Pray, thanking God that Jesus will return one day. Ask Jesus to help your family to not grow weary in doing good while you wait for His return.