



TRUE OR FALSE?

Disciples & Early Church • U5#3 1st-3rd Gr. • Nov.10, 2024

Concept

God gives us his word so we will know the truth and not be fooled.

Goal

Students will learn that we can know the true Jesus when He returns because He will be and do exactly what the Bible says.

Passage

2 Thessalonians 2:1-10; Matthew 24:23-27, 30, 31

Key Verse: "He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped... proclaiming himself to be God." 2 Thessalonians 2:4

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Tell the Truth" title sign <p>Optional Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRUE/FALSE statements on flashcards • Velcro 	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper cardstock with key verse printed on it, 1/student • Printed sheet with 2 Bible references on each side, 1/student • Page of printed pictures, 1/student • Cotton ball, 1/student • Yarn, 22"/student • Scissors • Glue sticks • Markers, crayons • <i>2 tablespoons each of salt & sugar</i> • <i>2 shallow bowls for salt & sugar</i> • <i>Real flower & fake flower</i> • <i>Dollar bill or coin & play money</i>

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information (for the teacher)

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"ANTICHRISTOS can mean either against Christ or instead of Christ, or perhaps, combining the two, 'one who, assuming the guise of Christ, opposes Christ' (Westcott). The word is found only in John's Epistles (a) of the many antichrists who are forerunners of the Antichrist himself, 1 John 2:18, 22; 2 John 7; (b) of the evil power which already operates anticipatively of the Antichrist, 1 John 4:3. ...

... Note: The term pseudochristos, a false Christ, is to be distinguished from the above; it is found in Matt. 24:24 and Mark 13:32. The false Christ does not deny the existence of Christ, he trades upon the expectation of His appearance, affirming that he is the Christ. The Antichrist denies the existence of the true God."¹

"This name [Antichrist] introduces to us one of the most solemn and foreboding subjects in the Word of God. An antichrist³/₄once absolutely opposed to Jesus Christ³/₄we are told, shall come (1 John 2:18). The spirit of antichrist is already in the world, denying the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh, either in the past (1 John 4:3) or in the future (2 John 7).

"This spirit of antichrist, now possessed by many, will culminate in one person, the Antichrist, who will deny both the Father and the Son (1 John 2:22).

"That he is a single individual is plainly taught in 2 Thess. 2, where he is called 'that man of sin' . . . 'the son of perdition:--'that wicked,' or properly, 'the lawless one.'

"As Christ is the express image of God (Heb. 1:3), so it appears that antichrist is the culminating manifestation of Satan, 'the prince of this world' (John 14:30).

His coming is 'after the working (energy or inward working) of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders and deceivableness of unrighteousness.'

"He will be a 'strong (or inward working) delusion' to them who believe not the truth (2 Thes. 2:3-12). . . .

". . . But, though antichrist shall so greatly exalt himself and rule over the world with such power, yet 'shall he come to his end, and none shall help him' (Dan. 11:45). The Lord shall destroy him 'with the brightness of His coming,' literally 'will paralyze (him) with the forthshining of His arrival' (2 Thess. 2:8) when He shall come, with His saints, to execute judgment upon the ungodly ((Jude 14, 15). Yes, he shall 'be brought down to hell (sheol), to the sides of the pit.' They that see him shall narrowly look upon him and consider him, saying, 'is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; that made the world as a wilderness and destroyed the cities thereof?' Isa. 14:15-17. . . ." 2

[1] Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1981 by Fleming H. Revell, "ANTICHRIST," pp. 61, 62.

[1] Blackstone, William E., Jesus is Coming, © 1908 by Fleming H. Revell, Chapter XII, pp. 107-112.

Set Up

Before class hang the "Tell the Truth" title sign on the white board or bulletin board.

Activity Stations:

- **Identification – Real or False?**

- **Instructions:** Set the two shallow bowls out on a table, one with salt, one with sugar. Label the bowls "A" and "B." Display the "A" and "B" bowls, real flower, fake flower and dollar bill, play money next to each other on the table. As students arrive, have them look at the bowls and write down on paper which bowl contains the real sugar. No tasting allowed. Have them put their names on the paper and turn in to the teacher. Ask the students how they can tell which one is the real thing and which one the fake. Ask if they have ever been fooled by any fakes. Talk about times when you have read or heard about people being fooled.

- **Craft – Booklet**

- **Instructions:** Give each student a cardstock cover with the key verse printed on it, a printed sheet with 2 Bible references on each side, a page of printed pictures and one cotton ball. Cut out each of the pictures and glue them on the page with the corresponding reference. They will be placed on the pages in the progression in which they occur; i.e., Jesus will come with a trumpet blast in the clouds, the Antichrist will fight Him with the sword, and Jesus will win and be King of the universe (crown). Stretch the cotton ball to fit the cloud and glue on top of the cloud. Glue the trumpet over the cloud. Color the other pictures as desired. Fold the cover in half and the pages in half. Put the pages inside the cover. Tie the yarn around the middle of the book to hold it together. As the students work on their craft, tell them that they will learn about each picture in the lesson. The booklet will help them remember that the Bible tells them what they need to know so they won't be fooled.

- **Game – True / False**

- **Instructions:** Place a Velcro "line" in the middle of the room. Tell the students which side of the line indicates TRUE and which side indicates FALSE. Hold the flashcards up for 10 seconds only. When the card is removed, the students will move to the true side or the false side of the Velcro line. Go through the cards quickly. The new students will likely know none of the answers so you'll want to move quickly, knowing these will be discussed in the lesson. On the other hand, you may be surprised at how much the students know.

Instructions: Stand at the "Identification" Activity Station table so you can use the items as props as you go through the Introduction.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Lesson Part One

When you came in to class some of you tried to guess which of the two bowls on the table contained the real sugar. How many think bowl "A" is the real sugar? How many think bowl "B?" How did you decide which was the real sugar? It was hard to identify because sugar and salt look alike and have no scent. If I were to tell you that this (hold one of the bowls up) is the sugar, you'd know for sure if I was telling the truth when you tasted it. By examining the items on the table, it was pretty easy to determine the real from the false. Sometimes, though, it is not always easy. For example, counterfeit money made to intentionally deceive people is often difficult to distinguish from the real thing. It's important to know real money from fake money if you want to buy something.

Let's imagine that someone says Jesus is coming back. He arrives in a spaceship armed with lightsabers, claiming to fight for the rebel cause. Should we believe that he is Jesus? Let's imagine that another man comes to us saying he is God and that we must serve and worship him. Should we believe him? So these two fellows seem wacko, but why is it that we shouldn't believe either of these two guys? (The arrival method and the type of behavior don't match what we know from the Bible of Jesus' return.) All through the Bible we are warned about the deception of people who are fakes. These people are called false prophets, false teachers, false Christs, false messiahs. But why is it important for us to identify people who are fakes?

For starters, fakes or false messiahs mislead about how to have a relationship with God. They don't tell the complete truth. The truth is that God loves everyone and wants to have a relationship with us. He sent Jesus to save us from the punishment we all deserve for disobeying God. Jesus came to earth as a perfect man to pay for our sins by dying on the cross. He is the only one who can take our sins away. **Acts 4:12** says, "**And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.**" Others will come claiming to be the way to God, but the Bible declares that Jesus is the only one who saves and the only way to have a relationship with God. He was resurrected from the dead and when He left this earth He promised He would come back again.

Now, here's where it gets interesting – here's where the plot thickens. The Bible tells us that men will appear who claim to speak for God and some will even claim to be God. They will try to fool or deceive people into thinking they are the real Messiah and will be pretty convincing, too. So how will we know what to believe? If we know the truth of the Bible, we will not be fooled.

We are halfway through our unit about the church in Thessalonica.

Lesson Continued

Two of the letters Paul wrote to that church are the books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians in the New Testament. Even though he had much opposition, Paul told the Thessalonians about Jesus. But because he had to leave quickly he didn't have time to tell them about what was to come. These people were confused about what it would be like and how they would know when Jesus came back to earth. Last week we learned about the Second Coming of Jesus. This week we will learn about some pretty wicked characters who will rise up to confuse and mislead people more and more as the time approaches for Jesus to return.

Matthew 24 tells us that many religious fakes will arise before Christ actually returns. They will rise up among the people and gain power and will purposely mislead people in their understanding of the truth. Their motive is to purposely deceive people. This is happening today. Even people who know Jesus but don't know the Bible are fooled.

Let's look at **2 Thessalonians 2**. In 2 Thessalonians Paul wrote that one final and very evil man will arise and deceive almost everyone just before Jesus returns. He is called the antichrist. He won't pretend to be Jesus, but will openly oppose Jesus and actually claim to be God. Follow along as I read **verses 3-4**. Our key verse is, "**He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped..., proclaiming himself to be God**" (**2 Thessalonians 2:4**). The sad thing is that many people will follow this powerful and persuasive leader who gets his authority from Satan. Rather than turning to Jesus, they will believe that he will bring them the peace and happiness they are looking for.

Matthew 24:4, 5 says, "Don't let anyone fool you... many will come claiming to be the Messiah..." How can we avoid being fooled? If we know God's word we will not be fooled.

Transition

Let's get together with the other classes. The drama team is going to have a pretend game show called "Tell the Truth." Three people will say they are the real King of Kings. See what you think.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

DRAMA -"Tell the Truth" skit performed by the drama team

Transition

None of these were the real King of Kings. Were any of you fooled? Jack and Jill knew what the Bible says so they weren't fooled. If we learn what the Bible says, fakers will not fool us. Let's return to our classrooms and look at two things the Bible tells us will be true about Jesus, the only King who deserves our worship.

Lesson Part Two

Type of Entrance – Trumpet & Cloud

Listen while I read Matthew 24:30 that tells us how He will come. Can you imagine that? He will be announced by a loud trumpet blast and will come through the clouds. Everyone everywhere on earth will see Him at that moment when He comes. This might be hard to believe, but the Bible tells us this is the way it will happen so we know it is true. So if a person claims to be God and does not come to earth just that way, we'll know that person is a faker.

Type of Person - Bible

The Bible also tells us people will lie to try to get people to follow and worship them. They will often be very nice but they won't tell the truth about Jesus and God. The antichrist will be a man of evil. He will seem good at first, but when he gets all the power in the world and people worship him, he will take over and be very cruel. He will hate God and Jesus and the people who love God and Jesus. The people who have refused to love God will be fooled. The Bible tells us that Jesus came to earth to love and serve us and to die for us even though He was rejected and crucified on a cross. We will know the true Jesus because He will be and do exactly what the Bible says. He always tells the truth, always loves others and always loves and honors God.

Final Outcome – Sword & Crown

When Jesus comes back the antichrist will fight Him, but Jesus will win (hold up sword and crown). He will be the ruler of all the earth and He will have all the power. We learned last week that everyone who has asked Jesus to forgive their sins will be very glad to see Him and will live with Him forever. All those who have decided not to ask Jesus to forgive their sins will be very afraid because they will not ever be able to live with Him. Remember our key verse, "Do not let anyone fool you in any way" (2 Thessalonians 2:3). We already know the end so we don't have to be fooled or afraid.

Transition

Let's get into our small groups.

Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

- Turn to Matthew 24 and read verses 30-31. If this is supposed to be an exciting time, why do you think "there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth"?
- Who do you think are "all the peoples of the earth?" Do you know what "mourning" is? Why will they be mourning?
- Who are "the chosen ones" in v. 31? (Those who have admitted they sin, asked Jesus' death to count for their sins.)
- Does this make you feel afraid, excited, etc.? Why? Read 2 Thess. 2:2, 8 and Matthew 24:30-31. Satan wants us to be afraid, but Jesus and Paul told us this would happen and promised that Jesus will gather up all His "chosen ones" to live forever with Him.

Learning Activity# 2 Continued

- What is our key verse? How can you be sure that you won't be fooled? What are some things you can do?
- How can you help other people not to be fooled?

Missions Prayer: Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving Campaign.

Let's pray for our friends and family who don't know Jesus. Ask God to help us tell them about the love of Christ. Let's also pray that we will learn the Bible so false teachers or the antichrist won't fool us.

Optional Activity

Game – All Birds Fly 1

Object: To catch someone believing something false.

Instructions: The person who is "it" stands in front of the class. "It" says, "All birds fly." Then "it" names ten things, e.g., "Eagles fly. Buses fly, Bananas fly. Buildings fly. Robins fly. Rabbits fly, etc." while flapping his/her arms. The students are to flap their arms when "it" actually names a bird, but stop when a "non-bird" is named. "It" can fool the class by listing things rapidly or staggering things to confuse the other students. If players flap when something other than a bird is named, they are out of the game. After "it" finishes listing the ten things, a new "it" is chosen and the players who are out can reenter. The game can be varied by making a different category such as "all fish swim," "all cars have horns," "all trees have leaves."

[1] Bob Gregson, The Incredible Indoor Games Book, © 1982 by Fearon Teacher Aids, Frank Schaffer Publications, Inc., p. 71.

Game - Hot Potato

Instructions: when a student catches the ball, he/she must say the first/next word in the key verse until they have said the whole verse.

True/False

1. Christ will return in secret.
(Lk. 21:27) **True/False**
2. The false prophet, who represents the false messiah, can call down fire from the sky.
(Rev. 13:13) **True/False**
3. The Antichrist will be victorious in the end.
(Rev. 20:10) **True/False**
4. The Antichrist will turn to Christ and go to heaven.
(Rev. 19:20) **True/False**
5. The Bible calls the Antichrist a "lawful man."
(2 Thes. 2:3) **True/False**
6. We know that the Antichrist won't come during our lifetime.
(Matt. 24:11) **True/False**
7. No one will be fooled by the false messiahs and the Antichrist.
(Matt. 24:11) **True/False**
8. The false prophets won't have any unusual talents or abilities.
(Rev. 13:13; 2 Thes. 2:9) **True/False**
9. The false messiahs will claim to be messengers from God.
(Matt. 24:24-26) **True/False**
10. The Antichrist will claim to be God.
(2 Thes. 2:4) **True/False**
11. The false messiahs and Antichrist will obey God's word.
(Matt 24:11; 2 Thes. 2:3-4) **True/False**
12. We know that the Antichrist will come during our lifetime.
(Matt 24:36) **True/False**
13. More than one book in the Bible mentions the Antichrist.
(Rev, 2 Thes., 1 John) **True/False**
14. We really can't tell the false messiahs or the Antichrist from the real Messiah.
(Matt 24:23-27) **True/False**
15. Jesus' return will be dramatic and similar to the way He left.
(Lk. 21:27) **True/False**
16. The Antichrist will come down from the sky.
(2 Thes. 2:3) **True/False**
17. We aren't really sure that Christ is ever coming back to earth.
(Matt 24:30) **True/False**