

# CHRIST'S RETURN: LOOK WHO'S COMING BACK!



## THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

How should the return of Christ impact my life?

## BIG IDEA

Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth in bodily form to take all Christians to heaven and bring judgement to all non-Christians. This should compel us to share the gospel message.

## SCRIPTURE USED

**John 14:3:** *When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.*

**2 Peter 3:9-10:** *The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise to return, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent. But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and everything in them will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be exposed to judgment.*

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18:** *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with him forever. So comfort and encourage each other with these words.*

## OPENER

**For the opener "Blindfolded Marco Polo Dodgeball" you will need:**

- An open space (indoors or outdoors) for playing a variation on dodgeball
- Blindfolds or bandanas – enough for half your students
- Several semi-soft balls for dodge ball – the more the better, but you need at least half as many balls as you have students

Clearly communicate the boundaries for your playing zone using masking tape or designated objects. Blindfold a leader and about half of your students (you can switch off if you have time). Give each blindfolded person a dodge ball (two each is even better, if available). Assign one additional adult helper to be

the “judge” and ask them to stand in the middle of the designated play zone. Any additional adult helpers can be designated ball retrievers. When the game begins, the blindfolded participants call out “Marco” and immediately everyone else must respond “Polo!” Anyone who does not say “Polo” is automatically out. Then those who are blindfolded try to throw balls at those who are not. A hit on any part of the body qualifies as “out” and sends that player to the sidelines. The object of the game is to be the last non-blindfolded player left.

### ASK

- **How accurate were you with throwing your ball when you were blindfolded?**
- **What would have happened if, at the end, we’d switched roles and given the balls to all the people without blindfolds and let them try to hit those of you who were blindfolded?** (Obviously, total annihilation. There would be no warning for those with blindfolds and no way of knowing they were about to get hit.)
- **This game is certainly not a perfect analogy, but what parallels can you think of between physical blindness and spiritual blindness?** (Leaders, listen to similarities that students list and try to direct them towards the common characteristics of uncertainty and the inability to know what is coming.)

### TRANSITION

#### EXPLAIN

**If you were physically blind you might very well miss some lifesaving information, if there was ever a real and present danger headed your way! Well, what’s true in the physical realm can also be true in the spiritual realm, and today we’re going to be talking about a specific example of this—a truth from Scripture that many people are blind to—the return of Christ.**

#### ASK

- **What words or images come to mind when you hear the phrase “the return of Christ”?**
- **Do you think most people are more apt to get their impressions about this topic from Hollywood or from the Bible?**

### LESSON

#### EXPLAIN

**Because of our faith in Christ and what the Bible teaches us about Jesus’**