

Getting Ready

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 1****Focus:**

Get ready for the Savior.

Lesson 1**Bible Basis:**

Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3; Luke 1:5, 11-17, 57, 76, 80; Matthew 3:1-3; 11:7-10

Lesson 1**Memory Verse:**

The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.
—1 Corinthians 3:8

Students will discuss why getting ready as they wait for the Savior is a worthwhile task.

Materials:

- Internet access
- Timer or timer app

When all students have arrived, mention that today's lesson won't be starting for five minutes. Set a five-minute timer.

Tell students that they are not allowed to look at their smartphones during this five minute waiting period. (If students are still getting on their phones during this time even though you have asked them not to, gently ask them to get off of their phones and mention that by doing so they will better understand today's lesson.)

Encourage students to raise their hands and suggest things they can do to pass the time. One suggestion might be to share a favorite childhood memory or play a group game like Concentration (where a leader leads a clapping sequence in front of the group and the class tries to follow/clap along).

When the timer goes off indicating the five minutes is up, ask your middle schoolers if they thought it was hard to wait those five minutes; invite various responses.

Share this video with your class [1:12]:

Faithful Dog Waits Outside Hospital for Owner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMMz-v6HH58>

The owner had to leave behind his pet when he was admitted into the hospital, but the dog had no way of knowing if her owner was okay or coming back. Although the man's family understood he was sick or in the hospital, it's likely they also wondered if the man would be okay.

➤ **How might you have reacted if you were waiting to find out if someone you loved survived an illness or catastrophe?** (Answers will vary. Most students would mention that this would be a very difficult thing to go through.)

➤ **How do you think the dog felt when, after worrying and running to the hospital every day, she saw her owner being wheeled out of the hospital?** (Answers will vary. Students may mention a feeling of great relief, excitement, etc.)

➤ **How hard do you think it was for the dog to wait for its owners to return home?** (Answers will vary. People can't know exactly how a dog would react but the dog was likely very anxious, especially since its brother had been rescued and taken away.)

➤ **How do you react when you have to wait for something and you don't know what the outcome may be?** (Answers will vary.)

If time permits, have student volunteers share about a time in their lives when they had to wait a very long time. Have them explain where they were, what happened, how long they had to wait, and how they felt when the wait was over. Ask them if they used that waiting time constructively or wasted it.

The people of Israel waited for many years, even centuries, for a promised appearance. That's what today's lesson is all about.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Getting Ready

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 1**Focus:**

Get ready for the Savior.

Lesson 1**Bible Basis:**

Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3; Luke 1:5, 11-17, 57, 76, 80; Matthew 3:1-3; 11:7-10

Lesson 1**Memory Verse:**

The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.
—1 Corinthians 3:8

Materials:

- Internet access
- Paper
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring pens/pencils and paper to class.

John the Baptist was a fulfillment of prophecy and was tasked to prepare the way for the Savior. His main job was telling the people of Israel to, “Get ready for the Savior!”

We get ready for the Savior by remembering His sacrifice every Sunday during the Lord’s Supper. We also look forward to Christ’s coming return and what that means for how we spend our days. We need to prepare and get ready for the Savior by telling others about Him. Our goal today is to fulfill the lesson focus to “get ready for the Savior.”

Share the following contemplative video with your students [3:51]:

“Wait For It”

<https://youtu.be/oJaCmXpgZVA>

Ask students the following questions after they have watched the video. Accept all reasonable answers as this video could mean different things to different people.

- **What do you think the light coming fast as mentioned in this song might be?** (Answers will vary. Students may mention Christ’s return or even heaven.)
- **What might the hope come at last be?** (Answers will vary. Some students may mention Jesus first coming as a baby or His second coming that is yet to happen.)
- **What is the truth we find on our path?** (Answers will vary. Mention that there are many truths we learn along the way in our Christian life, but that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.)

➤ **Why might our past be something we need to be freed from?** (Answers will vary. Mention that the good news of Jesus helps us be free from things we are ashamed of from our past.)

➤ **Why might we praise God as we wait on Christ?** (Answers will vary but we praise God for sending Jesus and what that means for our futures.)

Hand out paper and pens/pencils (or invite students to have supplies ready at home). Have your students write down three concrete ways they are anticipating/waiting for Jesus. Encourage students to think of ways to spread the message of the Savior to others. If your students are having trouble coming up with ideas, you might want to share the following examples:

1. I'm anticipating inviting a friend to a service at church where he/she will hear about how Jesus came to earth to be our Savior, how He died for our sins, and how we can live with Him, now and in heaven.
2. I am preparing my heart by reading Scripture about Jesus and how He wants me to live.
3. I am asking my Savior for forgiveness for certain sins that are holding me hostage in my preparation of getting ready for the Savior.

Challenge your students to follow through over the next week on at least one of the ideas they have written down.

Close in prayer.

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