

For the Family

Read together Luke 12:35-38

Explain the story: There is a group of servants who are waiting for their employer to return from a wedding feast. They keep their work clothes on, and make sure their lamps stay lit. They stay awake, even when it gets late at night.

When their employer does return, he has a great surprise for them. He has brought food from the feast! He tells them to sit down at the table and he serves them. It's a good thing they stayed awake; they would have missed out on this great food!

This is a story Jesus told to remind us to stay ready for the day when he will return. We need to stay prepared for that day by watching for it, serving others, and being faithful as we wait.

Soon your children will be waiting for Christmas day. This is an opportunity to talk with them about how to wait for Jesus, by talking about how we should wait for Christmas:

Watch for it – Count down the days. Get an advent calendar or daily devotional. Create a daily habit of thinking about Jesus.

Prepare for it – Help with decorations. Buy and wrap presents. Get Christmas cards ready to send.

Serve others – Give to the needy. Find a service project you can do together as a family. Be kind to one another.

Be faithful – Help around the house. Keep your room clean. Do your chores (without whining). Do what you can to help your family celebrate Jesus' coming.

Stay ready – Soon you will be opening presents and enjoying a special family meal. In the meantime, stay ready!

Pray together that you will always be ready for Jesus. Pray that you will be watchful and faithful, and that you will spend your time serving God and others, as you wait for Jesus.



The Journey of Discipleship
Luke 9-19

With Sleeves Rolled Up and the Light On

Luke 12:35-59

Our Story So Far – Luke 9:51-12:34

- Jesus sets his face to go to Jerusalem and fulfill his mission.
- He sends messengers into Samaria, who are rejected.
- He sends out 72 missionaries, who return with stories of their authority over demons.
- He tells the parable of The Good Samaritan, showing that loving your neighbor means helping those who are in need.
- Mary sits at Jesus' feet like a disciple, showing that loving God includes listening to him.
- Jesus gives his disciples a model prayer, and teaches them to be persistent in prayer.
- After driving out a demon from a mute man, Jesus challenges those who doubt his power or want to see more signs.
- Jesus confronts some Pharisees and lawyers, accusing them of hypocrisy and burdening people with legalism.
- Jesus warns his disciples against hypocrisy. He exhorts them to acknowledge him before others, and promises the Holy Spirit will help them face persecution.

Last Week: Jesus warns his disciples against greed, saying that life does not consist in the abundance of one's possessions. He also warns them against being anxious about life, reminding them that God cares about them. Instead of being greedy or worrying, Jesus tells his disciples to seek his kingdom. He says it is the Father's good pleasure to give them the kingdom.

This Week's Story: Luke 12:35-59

Read Luke 12:35-59 and discuss the following questions:

Watchfulness 35-40

What do the two metaphors in verse 35 signify?

The Parable of the Serving Master 36-38

What is the setting of this parable?

Why are the servants waiting?

Why are these servants declared to be "blessed"?

The Parable of the Thief 39-40

What is the lesson of this parable?

Read: Matthew 24:42-44

1 Thessalonians 5:2

2 Peter 3:9-13

Revelation 16:15

How is the image of the thief used in these passages?

Notice that Matthew, Luke, Paul, Peter, and John all use this metaphor. Why do you think it was a theme among them all?

Luke 12 has warnings concerning hypocrisy, greed, and worry.

What is the warning here?

How are they all related to each other?

How are you doing in these areas:

- Hypocrisy
- Greed
- Worry
- Watchfulness

What could you do to grow in any of these areas?

Faithful and Wise Leadership 41-48

Here are four examples of servants who have been given responsibility for other servants.

The Faithful Servant 42-44

What does he do? How is he blessed?

The Unfaithful Servant 45-46

Why does he choose to be unfaithful?

What is his punishment?

The Knowingly Disobedient Servant 47

What is his punishment?

The Unknowingly Disobedient Servant 48a

What is his punishment?

48b

What is the principle behind all this?

To whom do you think these verses applied then?

To whom might they apply today?

If you knew that Jesus was returning in 30 days, what would you do to get ready?

A Time for Decision 49-59

To what is Jesus referring to with the words "fire" and "baptism"?

What does Jesus mean when he says he came to bring division?

Why does Jesus call them hypocrites in verse 56?

What is Jesus' advice in verses 58-59?

How does that apply to Jesus' return?

Next Steps:

- I need to make things right with God before Jesus returns.
- I will eagerly await Christ's return, striving to be found ready and faithful on that glorious day.
- I will diligently use what God has given me for his glory, seeking to share the message of hope and grace that is available in Christ Jesus.

Memory Verse – Luke 12:37

Blessed are those servants

whom the master finds awake when he comes.

Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service

and have them recline at table

and he will come and serve them.