

COGWA Youth Instruction

Last Great Day Instruction Lesson

Objective: To teach that the Last Great Day pictures the time after the Millennium when all humans who died without the knowledge of God and His way will be given an opportunity to learn the truth, respond to God, receive His Holy Spirit and have eternal life.

*“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and the books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books”
(Revelation 20:11-12).*

Note to Parents: We encourage you to read through this material with your children to provide an overview of the meaning of the Last Great Day and what it pictures. Then choose appropriate materials from the supplemental pages that you feel will be helpful in teaching and reinforcing the meaning of the day.

Last Great Day

The final holy day illustrating the steps in the great plan of God comes right at the end of the Feast of Tabernacles. Because the Feast of Tabernacles is seven days long, God referred to this final holy day as “the eighth day” in Leviticus 23. We also call it the Last Great Day. While it is attached to the Feast of Tabernacles, it is a separate festival with its own distinct meaning.

By having us keep this day holy, God teaches us what He will do for all those people who never had a chance to learn God’s way—those who lived and died without correctly knowing God and His way. God promises to bring all those people back to life and teach them His way. Then they will have a full chance to learn and live by God’s law to show God they want to be in His family. Countless billions who have lived and died, blinded to the knowledge of the true God and His purpose, will be resurrected to physical life to be given a full opportunity. This day shows that God is very fair and will give all people a real chance to know Him and live His way.



Ezekiel was inspired to write of this resurrection to another physical life in chapter 37 when he was given a vision of a great valley full of dry bones. These bones represented many, many people of Israel who had not known God or been obedient to Him during their lifetimes. They died without hope. Yet, in spite of their not responding to God, they are brought back to a physical life so they can have their real chance to know and obey God. “Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel”’” (Ezekiel 37:12).

Ezekiel hears God tell the bones, “Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: ‘Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD’” (verses 5-6). They hadn’t known who God really was, but after this resurrection—which we often refer to as “the second resurrection”—they receive their one opportunity to come to know God, submit to Him and begin living His way.

These resurrected, physical beings will be offered—for the first time—the opportunity to receive salvation through Jesus Christ. The pages of the Bible will be opened and explained to them so they can understand and apply the Scriptures. Once they have had time to hear, understand and grow in the knowledge of God, they will be judged according to their works (Revelation 20:12). During this time, the prevalent conditions of the Millennium—God’s government, peace and prosperity—will continue. An outpouring of the Holy Spirit will permeate the earth. From the least to the greatest, all will have full access to God, Christ and the way of eternal life.

Since these resurrected people are going to be judged by their works, they must be given time to produce works. While the Bible does not specifically reveal how long these resurrected people live, there is an indication that this period of the second resurrection might last 100 years (Isaiah 65:20).

Sadly, even with this full, generous chance for life in the family of God, some individuals will persist in living disobedient, sinful lives and refuse to allow God’s Holy Spirit to govern them. Although God desires that all come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3-4), in His mercy He will remove the wicked so that they do not continue to suffer in an angry, rebellious attitude and so that peace can prevail (Revelation 21:7-8). Those who reject the offer of salvation—eternal life in the Kingdom of God—and willfully rebel against the Almighty will perish in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:13-15).



Once the overwhelming majority of mankind has yielded themselves to God and received the gift of eternal life, God will purify the earth with fire (2 Peter 3:10-12). He will create a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1). New Jerusalem will descend from heaven and become the capital of the entire universe (verse 2). After this restoration of all things, God the Father, along with Jesus Christ, will establish His throne in this magnificent Holy City (verse 3). The glorified sons and daughters of the everlasting God will live forever in His family.

