

COGWA Youth Instruction

Last Great Day Lesson

Scripture Discussions

Note to Parents: Here is a list of scriptures to read and discuss with your children regarding the meaning of the Last Great Day. As you discuss these concepts, be mindful of the maturity of your children and adjust the discussion based upon their level of personal development.

Eighth Day Observance Commanded

Leviticus 23:36, 39-44; Numbers 29:35: There is to be a sacred assembly on the eighth day.

- *Explain that the Feast of Tabernacles is seven days long, and the eighth day is a separate festival.*
- *Notice that the eighth day is an annual Sabbath of rest.*
- *Explain that the “eighth day” is the seventh and final holy day in God’s plan of salvation.*
- *Explain that the number seven represents completion and perfection—this seventh holy day pictures the final, culminating events in God’s perfect plan.*

What Is the Fate of Those Who Die With No Real Knowledge of Jesus Christ?

Acts 4:12: There is no other name under heaven by which a person can be saved.

- *Explain that one can only receive salvation by accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (John 6:39-40, 44; 11:23-26).*
- *Explain/define “salvation”—a process of repenting, forsaking sin, receiving the Holy Spirit and growing towards the stature and fullness of Christ.*

Isaiah 49:8; 2 Corinthians 6:2: Today is a day of salvation.

- *Explain that today (now) is “a” day of salvation, not “the” (only) day of salvation.*
- *Explain that today is “a day of salvation” for those few whom God has granted understanding of His ways. The Millennium will be “a day of salvation” for millions, and the period of time immediately after the Millennium will also be “a day of salvation” for billions.*
- *Emphasize that God is not in competition with Satan for control of this world. God is in complete control and is carrying out His plan. God is using Satan to teach mankind that his (mankind’s) ways do not work. They only bring a very small amount of good. But unfortunately they bring many, many bad and evil things.*

1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9: God desires that all people be saved.



- *Explain that God desires that all people be saved, but He does not guarantee that all will be saved. God has created the best process for people of all generations and nations to receive salvation and eternal life. When God grants each individual understanding of His way, each must act upon that knowledge—choosing righteousness and shunning evil. It is necessary to overcome our wicked human nature and develop holy, righteous character.*

Second Resurrection

Revelation 20:7-10: Satan will be released.

- *Explain that Satan will be allowed a short season to deceive the nations.*
- *Explain that despite being taught the truth, when tested by Satan after he is released, many will still be deceived.*
- *Explain that God will permanently remove Satan, and he will never again have access to God, Christ or mankind.*
- *Emphasize that Satan will be removed before the second resurrection occurs. God will render Satan completely powerless—unable to deceive the rest of the dead who will be resurrected to physical life.*

Revelation 20:5: The rest of the dead will live after the 1,000 years.

- *Explain that the second resurrection will occur after the 1,000-year millennial period and after Satan's removal.*
- *Contrast 1 Thessalonians 4:16 with Revelation 20:5—"the dead in Christ" versus "the rest of the dead." The dead in Christ belong to Christ—they are His firstfruits. The rest of the dead are simply those who died never having access to the knowledge of God's plan and truth.*

Revelation 20:11-12: The dead, small and great, stand before the throne.

- *Emphasize that "small and great" means all those who have lived and died never having had a chance to understand God's truth. God has perfectly planned for everyone who has ever lived to receive an opportunity for salvation.*
- *Explain that God is fair—He will give everyone a fair chance to be in His family.*
- *Contrast 1 Thessalonians 4:16 with Revelation 20:11-12—"the dead in Christ" versus "the dead, small and great." The dead in Christ will be in the first resurrection and receive eternal life; the rest of the dead, small and great, will be in the second resurrection and receive another physical, flesh-and-blood existence.*
- *Explain that the "books" refers to the books of the Bible—Scripture. Through the giving of the Holy Spirit, God's Word will be fully opened to billions of people who have never heard the name of Christ or truly understood God's way. There will be an outpouring of spiritual understanding—of living waters (John 7:37-39).*
- *Explain that the Book of Life is God's record of those who will be brought into His family by being given eternal life.*

Matthew 12:41-42: The people of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment.

- *Explain that all who lie in their graves at the end of the Millennium await their first opportunity to learn God's way to spiritual life.*
- *Explain that God's mercy towards mankind clearly extends beyond the Millennium. Each person will have a genuine, personal opportunity to obtain salvation and have his or her name written in the Book of Life.*

Ezekiel 37:1-14: Dry bones are brought to life.

- *Explain that this is a resurrection to physical life—corruptible bodies, flesh and blood, dependant upon air to sustain physical existence.*
- *Explain that this will be the first opportunity for these individuals to understand God's truth.*
- *Emphasize that God will grant these physical beings access to His Holy Spirit. God's Holy Spirit supplies the missing link so they can understand the Scriptures.*

Joel 2:28-29: God will pour out His Spirit on all people.

- *Explain that "all flesh"—all of mankind—will have the opportunity to be called into God's eternal family. Their minds will be opened to real understanding.*
- *Explain that the Holy Spirit, the very nature and character of God, will be imparted to those who repent and are baptized during this time.*
- *Explain that unless people have received the Holy Spirit and have this Spirit dwelling in them, they are not Christians—they do not belong to Christ.*

Isaiah 65:18-25: The child shall die 100 years old.

- *Explain that this time will be as peaceful and productive as the Millennium. For the first time, these resurrected physical human beings will experience the abundance and joy of living God's way*
- *Explain that each individual will be given ample time—this scripture might indicate a 100-year period—to come to repentance and demonstrate that he or she desires to live a life obedient to God and qualify for the gift of eternal life.*

Who Will Judge These Individuals?

Revelation 20:11-12: The dead were judged according to their works.

- *Explain that God the Father has given Christ the authority to judge (2 Timothy 4:1; Acts 10:42).*
- *Explain that billions have lived, separated from God and His truth, never having been judged.*
- *Explain that this time of judgment is not to condemn people, but rather to test and try them.*
- *Explain that judgment will occur over time as these individuals come to learn and understand God's way of life.*



- *Explain that the vast majority of these individuals will be receptive to the truth and be responsive to their teachers—fully submitting to God.*

John 5:19-29: All judgment has been committed to the Son.

- *Explain that God has granted Christ the authority to judge.*
- *Explain that Christ has the same judgment as the Father.*
- *Emphasize that all will be judged by the same standard—the Word of God.*
- *Explain that all must come before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of how they have lived their lives (Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10).*

What Is the Fate of Those Whose Names Are Not Found in the Book of Life?

Isaiah 65:20: The sinner will be accursed.

- *Explain that some individuals will stubbornly insist on choosing their own way—the way of death. God will not force anyone to choose His way of life; He has granted man free moral agency to choose (Proverbs 14:12).*
- *Emphasize that God will provide sufficient time for all people to live a full, physical life under God’s law to qualify to enter into His Kingdom and, ultimately, to gain eternal life as full members of His divine family. Those who willfully persist in evil, rejecting God’s way of life, will perish in the lake of fire.*
- *Explain that one who suffers the second death will have been judged and found guilty of persistent disobedience.*

Revelation 20:13-15: Anyone not written in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire.

- *Explain that this resurrection—the third resurrection—is the resurrection to destruction (Malachi 4:1).*
- *Explain that the “second death” is final; there will be no resurrection from this final death. All those who have died once in their sins will be raised to die a second—eternal—death in the lake of fire (Hebrews 10:26-29).*
- *Explain that these individuals will be resurrected to flesh and blood, and they will be consumed within the fire quickly. God will put these people out of their misery; He will not torture them forever in an ever-burning hell. Although God will execute His full justice, He remains merciful (Malachi 4:1-3).*
- *Review that there are three resurrections: (Download the accompanying supplement chart “Three Resurrections” to show the differences between the resurrections.)*
 - *The first resurrection takes place at Christ’s second coming. The “dead in Christ” will be resurrected to eternal life.*
 - *The second resurrection takes place after the Millennium and Satan’s permanent removal. The “rest of the dead” will be resurrected to physical life and offered salvation for the first time.*
 - *The third resurrection takes place when God’s plan for physical human beings is complete. The unrepentant wicked will be raised to physical life to suffer the second death. They will never again be resurrected (Revelation 21:8).*

Ezekiel 18:29-32: God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

- *Emphasize that God would like everyone to receive eternal life (1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9).*
- *Explain that sinful people must be removed so they can no longer make life miserable for themselves and other. These individuals will have proven through their actions their willful rejection of God and His government.*

New Heaven and New Earth

Revelation 21:1-8: The holy city, New Jerusalem, will come to a new earth.

- *Explain that the New Jerusalem will come down out of heaven to earth.*
- *Explain that since the earth will have been purified of man's defilement, God the Father will come to earth and live with His glorified people (2 Peter 3:13).*

Isaiah 65:17-18: God will create new heavens and a new earth.

- *Explain that this will occur at the end of human history. All who will choose to submit to God and His government will have received eternal life. The Kingdom of God will be eternal—death and destruction will be no more (1 Corinthians 15:24-26).*

Revelation 21:10-22:5: New Jerusalem is described.

- *Explain that the size of New Jerusalem will be about 1,500 miles wide in each direction.*
- *Emphasize that rivers of living waters will flow from the capital city.*

Stories Relating to the Last Great Day

King Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7:4-10: Solomon held a feast in celebration of the dedication of the new temple, then celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days; and "on the eighth day they held a sacred assembly."

Revival under Ezra in Nehemiah 8:17-18: The people kept a sacred assembly on the eighth day, "according to the prescribed manner."

Memory Verse

Revelation 21:4: And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

