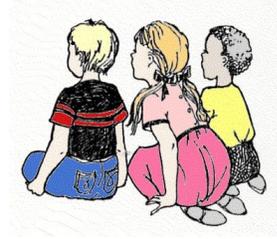


ARE YOU READY?

Theme: Being ready for Christ's return

Scripture: Matthew 24:44



Are you ready? Are you sure you're ready? Are you positive you're ready? Ready for what? Oh, the children's message!

How do you know when you're ready for the children's message? When you're sitting quietly, all set to listen, right? How about school? When you get up in the morning, what do you do to get ready for school? (Eat breakfast, brush your teeth, wash your face, put your books and homework in your book bag, etc.)

Well, as you know, Jesus is coming again to make all things new and to set up his kingdom. And he told us to be ready. Let me read you Matthew 24:44. Jesus said, "So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

So, we don't know exactly when Jesus will return, but we have to be ready for him. You know how to get ready for school, but how in the world do you get ready for Jesus' return? Do you think it means having our teeth brushed and our face washed? No! Does it mean having our books and homework all packed into our book bags? No! He wants to see that we're ready on the inside. He wants to see that we have a heart that wants to love God and to do his will. He wants to see that we have a heart to love and to serve other people. He wants to see that we're doing our best to obey his commandments.

And we can't ever let up, because we don't know exactly when he's coming, and what if he comes just when we let up? That wouldn't be good, would it? So we have to keep on being ready all the time.

That's so important, we should pray about it: Father God, we're looking forward to the time when Jesus comes back and makes all things new and sets up his kingdom. We pray that you will help us to be ready for that. Help us to have a heart to love you and to serve you, and a heart to love and to serve other people. We ask this in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Song: "Jesus Is Coming Again"