

He Holds the Future

Theme

The signs of the end times

Object

A bag of fortune cookies

Scripture

He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them." Luke 21:8 (NIV)

Do you like Chinese food? I love it! When we go out to eat, one of my favorite places is a Chinese restaurant. After you finish eating, they always bring some fortune cookies. When you break them open they have a little strip of paper with your fortune on it. Here are some examples of what they might say:

- Good things are coming your way.
- Success will be yours at school and at play.
- You will have a pleasant surprise soon.
- You will make very good choices today.
- The time is right to make new friends.
- Something you lost will turn up soon.
- You will do something soon that will make your family proud.
- You will live a long, happy life.

When you read your fortune from a fortune cookie, do you believe it? We might get a good laugh out of some of them, but it is foolish to think that a piece of paper in a

fortune cookie could tell what is going to happen in your future.

In our Bible lesson today, Jesus had some things to say about people who claimed that they could predict the future. Jesus and his disciples were in the temple and the disciples were talking about how beautiful it was with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God. Jesus said to them, "The time is coming when all these things will be completely destroyed. Not one stone will be left on top of another; every one of them will be thrown down!"

The disciples were frightened by what Jesus said. "When will these things happen?" they asked. "What signs can we look for that will let us know that these things are about to take place?"

"Don't let anyone mislead you," Jesus answered. "Many will come in my name, claiming to be the Messiah, and saying, 'The time has come!' But don't believe them." You see, Jesus knew that these people could not see into the future. Only God can do that!

There are some people today who think that they can see into the future. They may say some frightening things, but we need to remember what Jesus taught his disciples. "Don't worry!" he said. "Not a hair on your head will be harmed. You will be saved by being faithful to me."

Heavenly Father, we don't know what the future holds, but we know that you hold the future. We know that we will be safe when we put our faith and trust in you. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Interactive Group Activities
by Carol Williams and Charles Kirkpatrick

Sermon Title: "He Holds the Future"

Scripture Reading: Luke 19:5-19

BALLOON POPPING GAME: A fun activity that helps to reinforce the truths taught in this lesson. [CLICK HERE](#) for instructions and all of the materials needed to play the game. (Except for the balloons!)

HOT POTATO: Fill a sack with slips of paper of ways that people can be deceived (such as by the TV, newspaper, teachers, friends, books, billboards, etc). Children will sit in a circle and pass the sack around while someone plays music. When the music stops, the one holding the sack takes a question out of the sack, reads it and answers a question from the teacher if desired. Continue until everyone has a chance to answer at least one question or to read one slip of paper.

BEAN BAG TOSS: The teacher sits in the front of the room and tosses the bean bag to a child. The teacher will try to "deceive" the child and act like the bean bag will be tossed to a child that the teacher is "LOOKING" at but the teacher will deceive and throw it in another direction. Tell children to stay ALERT so they won't be deceived and drop the bean bag. If time allows and the teacher would like to, children can take turns doing the same tossing from the front chair.

SIMON SAYS: Let children play the game of SIMON SAYS and tell children NOT to be "deceived" as a leader named SIMON will tell the children things to do. IF "SIMON" doesn't say, then the children remain still but if SIMON says to do it, then the children will do as told, such as SIMON SAYS TO JUMP 3 TIMES, or SIMON SAYS TO TAKE THREE STEPS FORWARD...or HOP 4 TIMES (oh oh SIMON didn't say to), so if a child is "deceived" and hops, then he will sit out on the side lines. Play for as long as time allows.

MOBILE LEAVES: Give children supplies to make a mobile with leaves hanging down from the "mobile hanger" that will have words from today's Bible lesson — such as BE READY, DON'T BE DECEIVED, FOLLOW JESUS, etc. Children can cut out traced leaves of FALL colors and hang by orange or brown yarn.

FUTURE IN HAND: Children can trace their hand as it lays sideways on the construction paper or just draw a hand to look like it is holding something. Give children cut out letters to stick on the hand to write FUTURE.... or children can draw fancy large letters to say FUTURE. Tell children to remember that our FUTURE is in GOD's hand.

LOOPS NECKLACE: Give children strips of construction paper. Children will make one loop by gluing two ends together. Make another loop and hook it inside the first loop and continue to make a loop chain until the loop necklace can fit over the child's head to wear as a necklace. Tell children that each loop can stand for a way that we can be deceived if we don't follow Jesus, OR each loop can represent all the ways that Jesus

watches over us to keep us from being deceived. For older children, if the teacher desires, there can be different colors to represent different types of deception, such as one color for being deceived by friends, or a color for deception of family, or TV, etc.

FORTUNE COOKIES: If time and space allows, children can make their own cookies with a message slip of paper inside, of their choice. (Directions for fortune cookies can be found on line). If this is not workable, then children can write a "fortune" slip of paper and place inside a cookie that they have made from two round pieces of construction paper taped together. Children can decorate their paper cookie with dots for chocolate chips, etc and can write FOLLOW JESUS on the cookie and decorate the edges.

FAITH AND TRUST BALLOON BOPPING: Divide the class into two groups and each group will get 2 balloons to blow up and when the game starts, children have to BOP the balloons, working together to keep FAITH and TRUST from falling down. If one of the balloons touches the floor, the team gets a point against them as being "deceived". Continue as time allows and see which team has the fewest points of being deceived and keeping FAITH and TRUST up off the floor!

SHARE A SNACK: Give children banana slices and raisins and a paper plate. Children can form the bananas into a smile or frown to tell a part of today's lesson such as... happy face because I trust in Jesus, or I have a sad face when I am deceived. Children can then put a raisin in the middle of each banana slice if desired. Children could also be given life saver candies to form into a smile or frown, as well.

SING A SONG: O Be Careful Little Eyes What You See; He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Song: "O Be Careful Little Eyes"

Words and Music (pdf)



MP3 Accompaniment Track

Song: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

Words and Music (pdf)

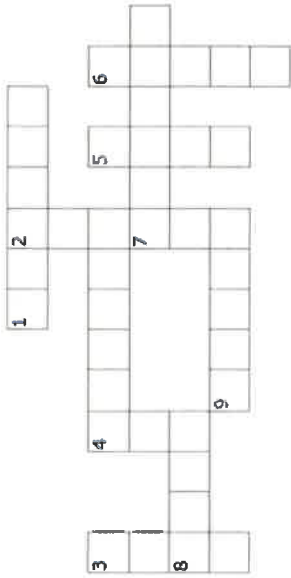


MP3 Accompaniment Track

About Carol Williams

Carol and her husband have served churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, and Indiana. Carol loves to work with children so you will find her teaching in Junior Church and children's Sunday School. She also has clowning ministry in which she is known as Bubbles tc (the clown).

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. A country; a large group of people living in one area with their own government
4. To make good decisions based on knowledge and experience
7. A building where people are kept as a punishment
8. A feeling of worry caused by something dangerous
9. A piece of rock used in construction of the temple

DOWN

2. A building used for religious ceremonies or worship
3. The period between birth and death
4. Fighting between two or more countries
5. Something that is given without compensation
6. To think about problems or unpleasant things that might happen

| | | | |
|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| LIFE | STONE | TEMPLE | GIFT |
| WISDOM | FEAR | PRISON | NATION |
| | | | WORRY |
| | | | WAR |



Copyright © Sermons4Kids, Inc.
May be reproduced for Ministry Use

Children's Worship Bulletin

He Holds the Future

Luke 21:5-19

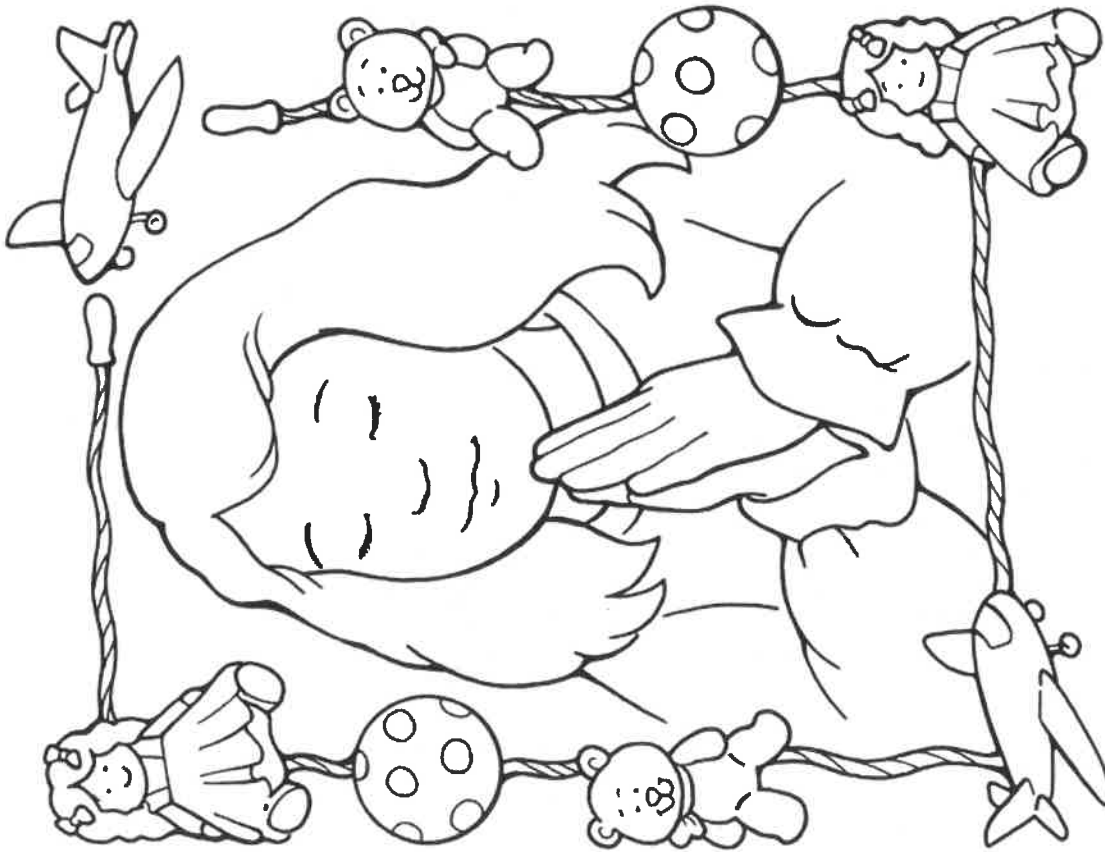
Word Search Puzzle

I K I N G D O M Y Q K Z V W B
 Y L P O F N J R E S S F F A V
 O J Z C O J R F J Z P T Z R B
 E W V S L O I H X W U N T S T
 V A I Q W L S E O A M E N K C
 P R R F J N I A V T D A Y U F
 P A C T G T M V V C K R Z T R
 T R Z I H U Q E C H V M J X I
 E N S E C Q F N F N A C V X G
 M L C G Q F U S N K T E T V H
 P R W M P A A A T J T I S C T
 L W B M T M I Q K O F N M J E
 E O I S N I N Q M E N J O E N
 T M M F A N I D T J S E V L E
 V Q X U G E D G N D J X S T D

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------|---------|-------|--------|
| EARTHQUAKES | WARS | TEMPLE | NEAR | PRISON |
| STONES | FRIGHTENED | KINGDOM | TIME | WATCH |
| LIFE | WORRY | HEAVEN | SIGNS | FAMINE |

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
2800 Trimmier Rd
Killeen, Texas

Coloring Page



“Give all your worries to him, because he cares for you.”
1 Peter 5:7

From Thru-the-Bible Coloring Pages for Ages 4-8. © Standard Publishing.
Used by permission. Reproducible Coloring Books may be purchased from
Standard Publishing, www.standardpub.com, 1-800-323-7543.

Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|---|---|----|---|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| 10 | 22 | 8 | 5 | 19 | 3 | 13 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 24 | 17 | 9 | 12 | 25 | 6 | 21 | 14 | 20 | 1 | 23 | 11 | 18 | 15 | 16 | 4 |

- 18-10-1-8-0 _____
- 3-10-9-7-12-19 _____
- 1-19-9-6-17-19 _____
- 1-7-9-19 _____
- 13-7-3-1-20 _____
- 20-1-25-12-19-20 _____
- 18-10-14-20 _____
- 19-10-14-1-0-21-23-10-24-19-20 _____

| | | | |
|-------------|--------|--------|-------|
| EARTHQUAKES | GIFTS | TEMPLE | WARS |
| FAMINE | STONES | TIME | WATCH |



He holds
the future

HE HOLDS THE FUTURE SECRET MESSAGE

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|----------|
| 5 22 5 18 25 15 14 5 | 23 9 12 12 | 8 1 20 5 | 25 15 21 |
| 2 5 3 1 21 19 5 | 15 6 | 13 5 | 2 21 20 |
| 14 15 20 | 1 | | |
| 8 1 9 18 | 15 6 | 25 15 21 18 | 8 5 1 4 |
| 23 9 12 12 | | | |
| 16 5 18 9 19 8 | 19 20 1 14 4 | 6 9 18 13 | 1 15 4 |
| 25 15 21 | 23 9 12 12 | 23 9 14 | 12 9 6 5 |

Luke 21:17-18

Draw  if TRUE.

Draw  if FALSE.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Jesus and his disciples were in the temple and some of his disciples were remarking that the temple looked very rundown and in need of repair. (Luke 21:5)</p> | <p>The temple was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God. (Luke 21:5)</p> |
| <p>Jesus said, "The time will come when not one stone will be left on another. Every one of them will be thrown down." (Luke 21:6)</p> | <p>"Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen and what will be the sign that they are about to take place?" (Luke 21:7)</p> |
| <p>"Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and 'The time is near.'" Jesus said we should follow them! (Luke 21:8)</p> | <p>Followers of Christ will suffer and will be destroyed in the end. (Luke 21:18)</p> |
| <p>Jesus promised the disciples that "Not a hair on your head will perish." (Luke 21:18)</p> | <p>Jesus said that those who stand firm will win life. (Luke 21:19)</p> |



"Give all your worries to him, because he cares for you."

1 Peter 5:7

From Thru-the-Bible Coloring Pages for Ages 4-8. © 1986,1988 Standard Publishing.

Used by permission. Reproducible Coloring Books may be purchased from

Standard Publishing, www.standardpub.com, 1-800-323-7543.