

# LEAD SHEET

## 1 & 2 Peter Last Things May 21, 2017

### **FAITH SKILL:**

### **SHARE YOUR GRACE STORY**

If you want to know God better, tell other people about Him!

### **GETTING STARTED**

In the Bible, God tells a story. It's a story of creation, sin, salvation, belonging, and a love that never fails. We know most of the story. But sometimes we get really timid talking about the end.

1 & 2 Peter talk about the Last Things in quite a bit of detail. Unlike Revelation, there aren't any mysterious words to interpret. Peter makes the point that the end will come, but his purpose is to expose how that should affect how we live our lives now.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Some Christians struggle with living for today instead of longing for the end. Why do you think that is? Do you ever feel that way?

- Popular media and contemporary thought have distorted the last things a little bit in our minds. What do you think the end of time will be like?

(Understanding where kids are in their thinking at the beginning of this lesson can help you aim the contents of these passages more appropriately.)

## **DIGGING IN**

There are two passages in 1 & 2 Peter that talk about the last things. I want to read both of them first, and then we'll go back in and drill a little deeper into each.

### **Read 1 Peter 4:7-11**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. In 1 Peter 4:7, when does Peter say the end will come? *(It is near.)*
2. This realization should produce what in Christians? *(A clear mind, self-control, and prayer.)*
3. He gives further instruction on how to behave with the end of things as a backdrop. Verses 8-11 give what advice? *(To love one another, to use your lives to serve others, and to take these actions seriously.)*
4. How do the last things motivate these early Christians? *(To live godly lives now.)*

### **Read 2 Peter 3**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Who will rise up in the last days, according to verse 3?
2. What will those people have to say? *(They will cast doubt on Christ's return.)*
3. Peter says the day of the Lord will come like what? *(A thief in the night.)*
4. What will happen during Christ's return, according to verses 10-13? *(Destruction, fire, the earth will be laid bare, etc.)*
5. Then Peter says "so then," and describes how they should live. How is that? *(Be spotless, blameless, and at peace with God.)*

6. What else should we do, according to verse 17?  
*(Be on our guard so that we are not carried away by lies.  
Grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus.)*

So, two things are prominent in this text. First, the end is going to come. Second, this should change the way we live now. It is no different for us than when Peter first wrote these words.

## **MAKING IT REAL**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Peter describes the Lord's coming as "soon." Why do you think He has yet to return? How might this make Christians unmotivated concerning the end of time?
- In our world today, how do you see the last things discussed, talked about, and viewed?
- If you knew that Jesus was coming back on the last day of this month, how would you spend your time?
- If you knew that this was true, what are some things you would definitely do?
- If you knew that this was true, how else would you prepare?
- I want you, knowing that you don't know when the end will come, to consider how your life should be affected. What are some things you know you shouldn't be doing but you continue to do because you are living with no urgency?
- What are some things you aren't doing but have always meant to do?
- What are some of your dreams, desires, and gifts that could help advance God's Kingdom here on earth?

Next, I want you to set a time to do those things. If it's starting a ministry, decide your first steps. If it's kicking a habit, make a decision on who will help to hold you accountable. If it's righting a sour relationship, set a date to approach that person. If we are convinced we don't know when our "tomorrows" will run out, we should stop living like we can put things off.

As Christians, we play a huge role in continuing God's story on earth. No one has said "The End" yet. Until God says so, we have a life to live—a life to live for God. So get busy.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Invite any student who wants to pray to do so. Have the students pray for one another, for their own ability to prepare for God's arrival, and for the advancement of God's Kingdom.