

Small Group Handout



"Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away."

— MARK 13:31



FAITH5 Small Group Handout

Behold the Signs

1. SHARE a high and a low from the past week one-on-one with a partner. Choose someone a few years older or younger than you. After a few minutes, return and share your partner's high or low with the entire group.

My partner's high: My partner's low: My prayer for my partner:



2. READ the following verses aloud, highlighting them in your Bibles.

Mark 13:31

Isaiah 40:3

Malachi 3:1

What words or phrases jump out at you? Why? Are there other verses that help you to see and understand signs of Christ coming into the world? Share these verses and mark them in your Bibles.



3. TALK about how your highs and lows might relate to the theme verse, then discuss the following questions as time permits:

1. Tell about a time when you ignored or simply missed the signs that something important was coming. What did you learn in hindsight?

2. If John the Baptist were to arrive on the scene today, what would he look like? Where would he appear? What would he be doing to announce the arrival of Jesus?

3. Do you think God wants you to announce Jesus, like John the Baptist? How? Choose one of the activities from the Theme Supplements section and begin practicing, constructing or creating together. What will your project for the Family Celebration or sharing in worship be?



4. PRAY for one another's highs and lows. Choose from among your highs and lows and bring one of each to the Closing:

PRAISE: A prayer of praise our group brings...

THANK: A prayer of thanks our group brings...

ASK: A prayer of special concern our group brings...



5. BLESS one another by tracing the sign of the cross on palms or foreheads and these words: "May your eyes be open to the signs of Christ's coming."



SEASONALS ADVENT B1

Kids' Corner

Behold the Signs

For groups with young children



SHARE

Share one good thing that happened to you this week. Share one bad thing that happened to you this week.



READ

Open your Bible and read Mark 13:31. Underline or highlight the verses.



Talk

Let's pretend that your very best friend in the whole entire world is coming to visit and they are going to stay for a whole weekend. You are so excited but the waiting is so long. What are you going to do to get ready for your friend to come? Will you clean your room? Will you buy special treats? The wait is finally over and your friend has arrived. Talk about how you feel and how you will treat your friend. Advent is about waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus. We do special things to get ready for a visit from a friend, but we forget to get ready for Jesus. We forget that Christmas is Jesus' birthday! Let's not forget that Advent is a time to get ready for his coming.

1. What are some signs of the coming of Jesus in your house during the Advent season?

2. What are some things you and your family can do to get ready for Jesus?

3. What will your family do on Christmas day to celebrate Jesus' birthday?

Talk/Activities

1. Materials needed: Large poster board or newsprint, markers. Make a large poster/banner to welcome Jesus, or to say Happy Birthday.

2. Materials needed: Device with MP3 theme song. Play 'Heaven and Earth' from your PowerPoint presentation or access it from your Theme Music folder. There are three versions:

1. Instrumental version
2. Vocal version
3. Piano Version

Invite children to sing and sign or create a dance while teaching the words to the verse.

3. Materials needed: Paper and pen. Invite small groups to write a prayer for each home to use as part of their FAITH5 Home Huddle every night this week.



PRAY

Invite children to complete the following:

I praise God for...

I thank Jesus for...

I ask the Holy Spirit to...



BLESS

Invite children to bless one another and say: "May your eyes be open to the signs of Christ's coming."



Color Time

Invite everyone to color the next pages or to draw and color their own thematic picture.



Can you find the star? Who is following it?

Can you pose like the characters?



What is the traveler in the middle looking for?

What clues do you see?