

The Gospel According to St. Luke

Middle school Ministry



Introduction

The 4 Gospels comparison

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
To whom it was written	Jews	Romans	Greeks	Christians
Subject	The Messiah the king	The Messiah the conqueror of Satan	Christ the lover of mankind	Christ the Incarnate Word
Main message of Jesus	Fulfills the Law	Performs wonders	Saves mankind	Dwells among us
Gospel content	Focuses on prophecies	Focuses on deeds	Focused on history	Focused on theology
Symbol	The human face	The lion	The Ox	The Eagle

Symbols of the Four Gospels

Matthew Winged Man Mark Winged Lion Luke Winged Ox John Eagle

1- Servant's preparation:

- 1) Explanation of the gospel of St Luke chapters 1-12 and an introduction for Bishop Yousef
<https://www.suscpts.org/diocese/bishop/bible-study/holy-gospel-according-to-st-luke/>
- 2) A link for Fr. Doud Lamei 's bible study in Arabic
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHedjI0_e2nk5yEwV9kLxOBn-oJwCt5OK
- 3) The reference book for Fr. Tadros Malaty → see separate attachment
- 4) Upper room app → Sermons → Bible study → Luke , you will find sermons for each chapter, links provided at the beginning of each lesson below.
- 4) Two illustrative videos that could be used by servants to prepare or to show at the beginning of each unit.
 - Part 1 [chapter 1-9]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb_dClxzo0
 - Part 2 [10-24]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z_KhwNdd8

2- Book introduction:



A- Who is St. Luke?

- ❖ The word “Luke” is probably an abbreviation of the Latin word “Lucanus” or “Lucuis”, which means ‘the carrier of the light’ or ‘the enlightened’.
- ❖ He is the only one among the writers for the Testament who was not a Jew, but a Gentile
- ❖ St. Luke was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle and became his companion on his numerous journeys.
- ❖ He met St. Paul on his second missionary journey in Troas and accompanied him to Philippi. Then, he joined him again on his third journey heading to Jerusalem. It appears that he may have stayed in Palestine during the two years’ imprisonment of St. Paul in Caesarea. They also travelled to preach in Rome together (Acts 28:30).
- ❖ He was not one of the disciples, nor one of the apostles.
- ❖ It came by oral tradition that he had painted the first picture of the Virgin Mary.
- ❖ He departed in Bithynia at an old age. Some say that he was martyred during the reign of Nero at age 84.

B- Characteristics:

- ❖ He wrote this Gospel and the Book of Acts to an Alexandrian nobleman named **Theophilus** (Luke 1:3), calling him “most excellent”, which is a special title for one who holds an important position within the Roman Empire. Some say that Theophilus is one of these three:
 1. He might be someone whose name the apostles did not want to mention, instead, calling him Theophilus which means ‘he who loves God’ in order not to reveal his identity and cause him harm.
 2. Or someone who truly bore this name. The apostle wrote him the Gospel of truth (the Gospel of St. Luke) to understand the Church and its mission (the Acts), in order to attract him to the faith rather than resist the Church.
 3. Luke was a doctor and a servant; he may have treated his own master before setting him free. In order to show his gratitude and give the most precious thing he could offer; he wrote him the gospel of our Lord Jesus and the history of the first Church
- ❖ St Luke did not meet Jesus in person but believed later when he met St Paul. In order to record accurate details about the whole story of Jesus, he interviewed eyewitnesses like St Mary and the disciples and may be main characters he wrote about like the Samaritan and Zacchaeus to be able to collect accurate and reliable understanding of all things and document them for all generations in a perfectly historical way.
- ❖ Picture a scientist going about some great work. He or she is searching for the cure for some horrible disease or making some marvelous new discovery. First the scientist digs for facts, looking deeply, studying carefully, investigating every clue, relentlessly hunting for any and every fact that will make the discovery deeper, richer, and more accurate.

- ❖ Similarly, in this study, we are going to look at Jesus through the eyes of those who actually witnessed Him, and then told their story. That is what a witness is: a person who sees or experiences something, then tells others what he or she has seen.

C- The Time for his writing

- There is no sure tradition regarding the time of this writing or its site. St. Irianus thinks it was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul.
- Since the gospel was written before the book of Acts, and the book of Acts was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul the apostle, therefore many believe that it was written between the **year 63 and 67 AD.**

D- Its Aim:

- ❖ ***This Gospel was recorded for the Greeks***, who are known for their own philosophy and literature, which is why it was written in a refined and poetic style.
- ❖ ***He offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child. St. Luke presented Christ to the Gentile world as a Mean to find their inner happiness and joy. He began the Gospel with joy with announcing [the birth of Jesus] and concluded it with joy [Jesus rose from the dead]; something the Greek legends and philosophies lacked.
- ❖ Jesus Christ came as a Friend to support us; praying in many places: (3:21; 6:12; 9:18, 29; 22:39-46), and teaching about praying (Our salvation is not philosophy).



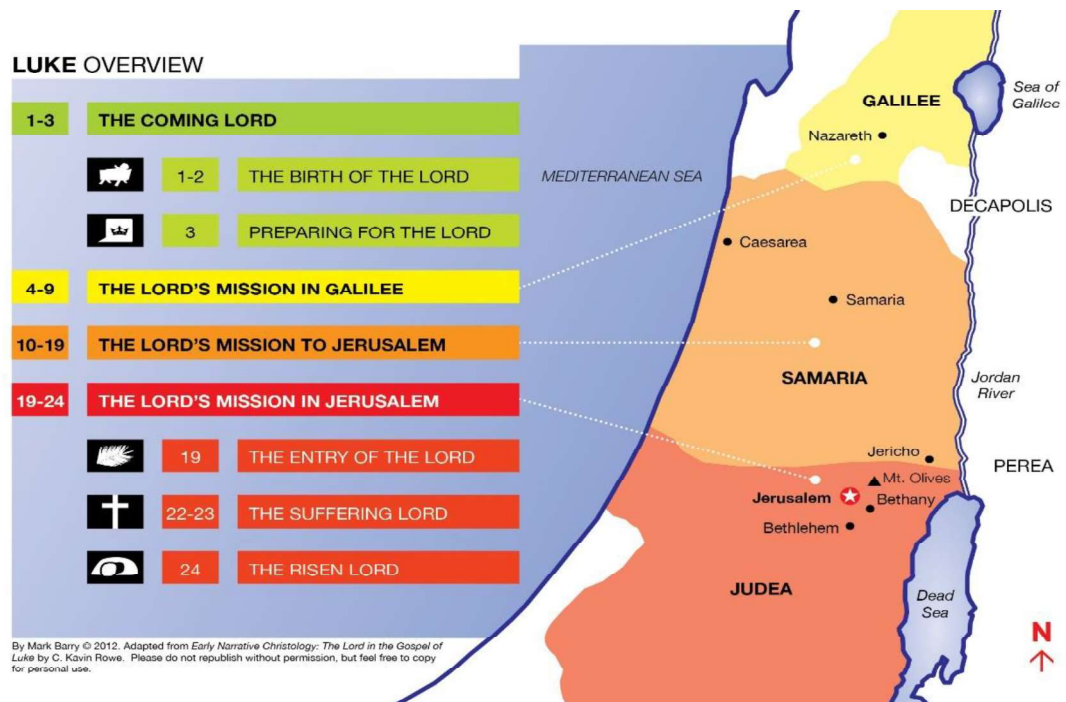
E- Why do we symbolize this gospel as an OX?

The ox associated with the Gospel of Luke fits well since it speaks to the great sacrifice of Jesus, and the ox was an important animal for sacrifice as required in the Torah.

3- Book outline

Its sections:

1. Unit 1: Our Friend became like us and was tempted like us, **chapters 1-4**
2. Unit 2: Our Friend feels our suffering, **chapters 5-18**
3. Unit 3: Our faithful Friend, **chapters 19-23**
4. Unit 4: Our Friend, the Risen from the dead, **chapter 24**



Unit 1: [3 lessons]

Our Friend became like us and was tempted like us chapters 1-4

St Luke presents the Son of God as a Friend, One that we can befriend not fear.

1. Introduction (**Chapter 1** v 1-4).
2. The promise of the Baptist to Zachariah and Elizabeth (v.5-25).
3. Meeting Elizabeth (v.26-38).
4. The birth of John (v.57-80).
5. The birth of Christ (**Chapter 2**)
6. The shepherds meet Him (v.8-20).
7. The circumcision of Jesus (v.21).
8. His entrance to the temple (v.22-40).
9. Jesus challenging the Jewish elders (v.41-52).
10. His baptism (**Chapter 3**) and the genealogy of Christ (v.23-37).
11. Jesus was tempted before beginning His ministry at Galilee (**Chapter 4**)

Chapter 1

Servant's preparation:

A sermon from Upper room app bible study about chapter 1

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+nkahjqy>

Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please mention this book overview.

- ✓ Who is St. Luke? He was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle later after resurrection.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Greek after collecting testimonies from eyewitnesses to accurately record all details of Jesus's life.
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? ***St Luke offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child.

Main points in the Chapter:

1. An introduction to the book 1-4
2. The good news to Zacharias of John's birth 5-17
3. Zacharias' dumbness 18-25
4. The Annunciation of the Divine Incarnation 26-38
5. Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth 39-45
6. The Virgin's hymn of Praise 46-56
7. John's Birth and the Circumcision 57-66
8. Zacharias the priest's Prophecy 67-80

Lesson overview:

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows

The gospel of St. Luke started with a short introduction that mentioned how, why and to whom was the book written. We explained that in the previous introduction.

John the Baptist's birth: 1-25

- Because St. Luke was a man of science, being a physician, he clearly defined the date of the event of John's birth
- Even though that time, there was corruption and there were no prophecies for 3 centuries, God saw Zacharias and Elizabeth, noticed their righteousness, and honored them to get John the forerunner before the Christ.

- In this conversation that occurred between the archangel Gabriel and Zacharias the priest inside the Altar, we notice that Zacharias did not believe the angel's words, in spite of seeing the angel and listening to the angelic voice in a tangible way which made him blameworthy of it, particularly because the holy history mentions living examples of elderly people who begot children whereas their wives was barren, such as Sarah, Abraham's wife for not having children.
- In (Luke 1: 17) "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah". The Scholar Oreganus comments on this statement saying, "He did not say in the soul of Elijah, but rather 'in the spirit of Elijah and his power'. The spirit that dwelt in Elijah also dwelt in John, and the power in Elijah was also in John.
- The archangel declared himself that he is Gabriel, he came carrying the divine promise and the good news, but he also had to discipline Zacchaeus with dumbness as God commanded.

The Annunciation of the Divine Incarnation 26-38

- God chose a virgin who is betrothed to a man [engaged but for the Jews, it is like married without physical union]. God's choice was perfect because Jesus had to come from a virgin but if she were seen pregnant without being married, people would stone her thinking she was a sinner.
- The Holy Spirit came on her to sanctify her womb and start her conception, this happened the minute she agreed to accepting the assignment of being the mother of God. Her obedience opposes Eve's disobedience. She was more obedient than Zacchaeus who questioned the angel.

Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth 39-45.

- The virgin St. Mary has now carried in herself He who carries the burdens of the world, and He who provides for everything, she did not worry about what is hers, but rather in the receiving spirit, she hastened to the hills to the city of Judah, so as to serve Elizabeth.

The Virgin's Hymn of Praise 46-56

- When Elizabeth's tongue was released in blessings to the Virgin because she has believed the promises and has carried the Word of God in her womb; likewise did the Virgin's tongue began do praise God.

John's Birth and the Circumcision 57-66

- John's birth became a preaching sermon, though it had begun mysteriously, but the Lord has become a companion to him so as to support him; for God took John to the wilderness while young, and there He took care of him and raised him, so that he appears to Israel at the appropriate due time.

Goal we learn: [Submit to God's will]

In this chapter, we have many points to learn from, but we will focus on St Mary and her submissive response to the angel. **"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."** Luke 1:38

Chapter 21

Servant's preparation:

A sermon from upper room app about Luke 21

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+wbe8owg>

Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please mention this book overview.

- ✓ Who is St. Luke? He was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle later after resurrection.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Greek after collecting testimonies from eyewitnesses to accurately record all details of Jesus's life.
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? ***St Luke offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child.

Remember:

Last lesson we talked about Jesus being rejected in Jerusalem and we saw how He turned the table against the Jewish leaders by His answers. We realized that true Christians would be also rejected by other people for doing what God commanded, yet it is our chance to witness for God through our actions and refuse to join the crowds when they disobey God. We should be proud when we are rejected for the good deeds as this indicates we are not following this world but God.

Main points in the Chapter 21:

- 1- The Widow's two copper coins 1- 4
- 2- A Question Concerning the Temple Building structure. 5- 7
- 3- The false Christs 8
- 4- The News of War 9- 10
- 5- Earthquakes, famines, and Pestilence 11
- 6- The Persecution of the Believers 12- 19
- 7- The Besieging of Jerusalem 20- 24
- 8- Signs in the Sun 25- 26
- 9- The Coming of the Son of Man 27- 28
- 10- The Parable of the fig-tree and summertime 29- 33
- 11- A Call to being Watchful 34- 36
- 12- Sleeping at Night in the Mount of Olives 37- 38

Lesson overview:

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows:

The Lord Jesus raised His disciples' eyes to His last coming, and mentioned to them the signs for His coming, and how bitter and difficult this would be. He wished them to know that all of the dark forces and the adversary's resistance will never be able to stop the divine fellowship of God with mankind. It is as if the Lord of glory's words in this chapter, pacify every soul that feels itself belittled due to all the hardships that befall the world, particularly to the believers. All of this gives us hope, that God has made us know ahead of time of it all, and that He will surely fulfil His divine plan, so He gathers His friends to His kingdom to share Him His eternal glory.

The Widow's two copper coins 1- 4

As Jesus was speaking in the Temple court, He noticed the procession of worshipers putting their offerings in the receptacles (21:1). The rich people were donating large sums while a poor widow was giving only a couple of small coins. Pointing this out to His listeners, Jesus said that the widow was really the bigger donor, because she was giving sacrificially while the others were giving an insignificant amount of their wealth. We should remember that God is not impressed by the amount but by the intent of the heart. He asks for the heart to be a dwelling place for Him; thus, He finds this widow putting the two coins much better than many rich people who throw their charity in the treasury.



A Question Concerning the Temple Building structure. 5- 7

The next long section (21:5-36) is quite confusing because Jesus is actually talking about two future events at the same time. The first event Jesus speaks of is the same one that caused Him to weep over Jerusalem in 19:41-44. In AD 70, some 40 years later, a bloody revolt against Rome would result in the complete destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Roman army, at the cost of between 600,000 and one million Jewish lives. Not only because of His divine foreknowledge, but also because of His keen insight into the political turmoil already beginning, Jesus knew this cataclysmic event was coming. It is this event that He speaks of in verses 5-7, 20-24, and 32.

Because the Savior was approaching the cross, it was necessary for Him to declare the destruction of the temple so that the blood sacrifice may cease, since its mission has been fulfilled and perfected through Christ's sacrifice that is so incomparable and unique

Foretelling future events 8-19

- ❖ As Jesus was approaching His death, resurrection, and ascension, He also knew that He would return again someday to earth. It is this Second Coming that He is referring to in verses 8-19, 25-28, and 34-36.
- ❖ Jesus' ability to foresee all of these events should not be seen as a magical ability to foretell the future so much as proof of a divine plan and of Jesus' participation in that plan
- ❖ Jesus knew that before the week would be out, He would be crucified, buried, and alive again. He knew that He would soon be returning to heaven, leaving His disciples to carry on His work. He also knew that He would return again someday. Verses 25-28 and 34-36 refer to this event. If you have read the Book of Acts, you know how the events in verses 12-19 came true in the first decades of the Church and are still coming true for Christians in some parts of the world. Why do you think Jesus tried to warn His disciples about this?
- ❖ Read again verse 34. These words are for us just as much as they were for the people hearing them spoken. How do they apply to us who still await Jesus' Second Coming?
- ❖ The Lord Jesus may have wished to discern between what befalls humanity as far as natural troubles and hardships, or due to its diversion, and between the hardship that would befall believers for no other reason than their faith in the Lord Jesus. The adversary does not stop resisting in every possible way, using those who have religious qualities, such as the Jewish assemblies, and also the earthly authorities; even the relatives according to the body such as the parents, the brothers and the close ones. In all of this, God sees this resistance as against Himself. It is He who gives the word and the wisdom to His believers. He is responsible for every hair on their head. But the believers should not be passive, for He says (Luke 21: 19) "By your patience possess your souls."
- ❖ Pope Gregory the great remarks on the Lord's words, 'By your patience possess your souls' in this way, "To possess the soul is by the virtue of patience; because patience is the basis of every righteousness, and its protector. Patience means to endure peacefully all evil that befalls us from others, without having any ill feeling towards those who drop it on us."

The Besieging of Jerusalem 20-24

"But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!" Some think these words are a prophecy to what the historian Youssefious narrated, that the chaste women cooked their children due to their severe hunger

Signs in the Sun 25-26

There is no doubt this will literally take place before the last coming of the Lord Jesus; for there will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. These things are expected by the astronomers themselves.

If the sun stands for the Lord Jesus, then there will be a sign to show the choking of the faith in Christ, as if the sun is hidden in people's lives. The moon refers to the church that takes its light from the Lord Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness; for it will go through severe hardship.

The stars refer to the believers with all their spiritual gifts and positions. They will deny their Christ. The earth that is full of catastrophes refers to the corruption of the body.

The sea and its waves refer to the nations and the kingdoms

The Parable of the Fig-tree and summertime 29-33

It is as if He is saying “Just as with the fruit of the tree it is realised that summer is drawing near, likewise is it with the collapse of the world, it is known that God’s kingdom has drawn near.

Goal we learn: [Be prepared]

In this lesson, we will discuss how to be ready as we do not know the time and most importantly that God will be with us when things seem to be hard as He had promised. He specifically mentioned these things before His cross as He knows that the disciples would be scared soon but He wants to give them peace and give us the same peace for when things in our lives do not go that easy. He never did, nor will abandon us.

Lesson delivery idea

1-Give from what you own:

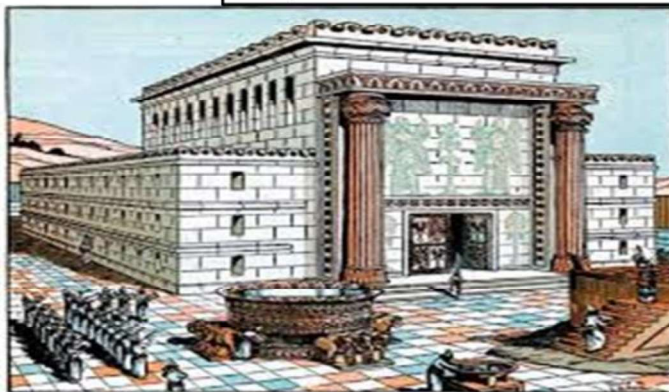
A quick lesson we learn from the widow, that she gave from her needs or what she had but the rich gave from their extras. Remember when we give time to God, give from your time not your wasted time. For example, we should not pray on our way to school but wake up early to pray so you give from our own time not our wasted time, same for our night prayer, bible, or anything else we give.

2- Be prepared:

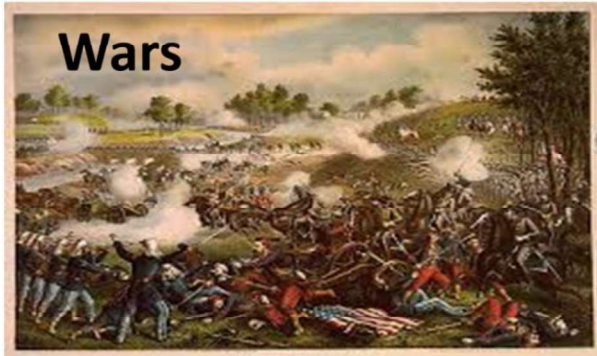
If you have time, you may use this intro video

<https://ministry-to-children.com/trusting-jesus-object-lesson-sermon/>

“Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down.”



This happened 40 years later when Titus the roman emperor attacked Jerusalem and burnt the temple completely , all the gold covering it melted and not one stone remained attached



Intro:

- ❖ Have you ever gone hiking before? I love to go hiking. I just think there is nothing better than being outdoors and seeing everything God created.
- ❖ Each time I go on a hike it's a little bit different. Sometimes it's hot, sometimes it's cold. Sometimes it's raining, and sometimes it's dry as a desert. Sometimes it's flat, and sometimes it's up and down, over and over again. And I hike them all, no matter how easy or how tough.
- ❖ One thing all those hikes has taught me is how to prepare. If I want to make it through a hiking trip, there are certain things I need to bring and do.
- ❖ First of all, I have to build up my strength. I can't just automatically go hike up the highest mountain my first trip out. No, I have to start smaller and slowly build up my strength. But I know, that with each hike I go on, I am making myself better for the next one.
- ❖ Another thing I've gotten good at is packing. There are a lot of things you need to bring with you on a trip like that. I even brought my backpack to show you. These are things I always bring with me, no matter what trip I'm going on.
- ❖ I have a flashlight, for when it gets dark. A map and compass, so I don't get lost. I have food and water, to keep me strong. And sunscreen and warm socks to protect me. If I forgot even one of those things, I would be in big trouble. That's why I try to always be prepared.
- ❖ You know, if you think about it, we should always be prepared for other things too. It's not just about hiking. You could be prepared for a test, or for a football game, or even a party.
- ❖ But there is one thing that is more important than anything else. Meeting Jesus.
- ❖ Just like when I go hiking, there are things we need no matter what. We might not need an actual flashlight, but we do need a light to follow like the bible and our prayers.
- ❖ Jesus talks about being prepared a few times in the Bible. We never know when we will meet Jesus, but no matter when that is, if it's in two seconds from now, or 100 years from now, we need to be ready.
- ❖ Just like you wouldn't want to go on a hike without all the proper equipment, we don't want to meet Jesus with our hearts all wrong. We want to be living the life He asked us to live. We want to obeying our parents, helping others, reading our Bibles, and asking for forgiveness when we mess up.

Discussion:

- In order to be prepared, God wished to give us some signs to look for before the end of the world. Signs like earthquakes, wars, and persecution. However, Jesus said even through hard times, He would be there with us, and we won't know where we had this strength before. He usually helps us at the right time.

Another illustration if time allows: “When Things Fall Apart”

I have, here, some building blocks.

And what I’m going to do is use these blocks to build a nice-looking building.

What do you think? It looks pretty good, don’t you think?

But even though it looks pretty good, it’s not a long-lasting type of building, is it?

What do you think will happen if I shake the board this is built on?

You think it will fall over?

Let’s find out! [shake board slightly until the building falls down]

Yep, you were right. It was a pretty building, but not very solid or long-lasting.

In today’s scripture story, Jesus and his disciples are in Jerusalem where the Temple was located.

And the disciples are excited about seeing the Temple.

They think the Temple is a pretty amazing building!

But even though the Temple was much prettier AND better built than my little building, Jesus tells the disciples in today’s story that it was going to fall over – just like my building did.

This must have sounded pretty scary to the disciples because when we are told things that we think will last for a really long time (like buildings) will be gone much sooner than expected, then that can make us feel afraid.

But what Jesus then teaches the disciples is that even though things like my little building and big buildings like the Temple do not last forever...

...God DOES last forever.

Which means when things are falling down or falling apart, God is and always will be with us while it happens.

One of the ways that Jesus tells the disciples how God is always with us is by giving us words to share with others as well as wisdom about how to respond in the moment.

Even in really scary situations when it feels like everything is falling apart, in today’s story, Jesus reminds his disciples (and us) that God is with us.

And, because God is with us in those scary moments, then God can help us know what to do and how to respond.

Take home Prayer

Please God, let us always be watchful and put on our guard like men in an enemy's country. Let us remember that evil is about us, and near us, and in us ! Remembering this, we must put on the whole armor of God and beware of spiritual drowsiness. "Let us not sleep as others do," says Paul, "but let us watch and be sober." (1 Thessalonians 5:6.)

We are to pray always and to beware of hurrying over or shortening our prayers.

Let us leave the class with a hearty determination, by God's help, to act on what we have been reading. If we believe that Christ is coming again — then let us get ready to meet Him.

Memory Verse:

18 “But not a hair of your head shall be lost. 19 By your patience possess your souls.”

OR

36 “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”