

10 HE'S COMING BACK

KEY TEXT: MARK 13:24-37

CENTRAL truth

It's natural for people who love God to be sad about the way others rebel against Him and reject Him, but this won't last forever. Like He told the disciples after warning them about future persecution, **Jesus will return one day**. When He does, everything will be set right.

key question

Why do you think God chooses to keep the day and time of Jesus's return secret? What might happen if we knew?

Uncertainty makes us pay attention because no one wants to be caught off guard. God might be keeping the day and time of Jesus's return secret to keep all eyes focused on Him where they belong. If we knew when Jesus was coming back, we might be tempted to wait until the last minute to put our faith in Him or live for Him. God deserves better than that!

keep in mind

- Depending on your group, the topic of election could be a touchy subject. Some people think it means God chooses who will be saved and that we don't have a choice. Others think it means God knows who will choose Him and only chooses them. Others fall somewhere between the two or have different views entirely. Try to avoid letting conversation devolve into a debate. Focus instead on what we know for sure: those who choose God are chosen.
- Jesus knew His disciples would be persecuted, but He expected them—and us—to keep doing kingdom work. This might confuse some students. Remind them that Jesus never asks us to do more for Him than He did for us, and He helps us through the Holy Spirit (see John 14:12)!

application

How can we encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ while we anticipate Jesus's return together?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Jesus has overcome the world (see John 16:33), so students have no reason to be afraid of the unknown. They need to know that if they have put their faith in Jesus, He will help them do His work until He comes back. If tough times come, He will hold them up. If they haven't put their faith in Him, they can do that now!

FOR THE LEADER: Encourage students to focus on the finish line, not on whatever's going on around them. They can't change people's hearts, but they can tell people the truth and let God change those hearts. Tell them how you trust God to do this and how it helps.