



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 11: Alert

Suggested Week of Use: May 10, 2026

Core Passage: Matthew 24:36-51

News Story Summary

In January of 1996, a nine-year-old girl named Amber went bike riding with her little brother in their Arlington, Texas, neighborhood. Less than ten minutes later, she was kidnapped. Four days later, she was found murdered a few miles away from her home. While her case has never been solved, her name will not be forgotten. That's because a group of broadcasters teamed up with local police to send out an alert that energized the community in searching for Amber. By 2005, all fifty states had an AMBER Alert system in place. Today, thirty years after Amber's abduction, AMBER Alerts also can be issued in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, along with Canadian provinces and Mexican border states.

The system's name stands for "America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response," but it honors the young girl from Texas. AMBER alerts are issued by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in coordination with the U.S. Department of Justice and are used for the most serious child abduction cases. The alert includes a unique audible signal and vibration. As of December 31, 2025, more than 1,300 children have been recovered thanks to an AMBER Alert.

For more about this story, search "AMBER Alert history 2026."

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, play a recording of several public alert sounds. Ask: *How do you usually respond when you hear an alert on your phone, the radio, or television? What is the danger of not paying attention to it?* Encourage adults to share what they know about AMBER Alerts. Read the information about AMBER Alerts from the News Story Summary. Highlight the important service these alerts have provided for the past thirty years. Say: *Still, it might be tempting to tune them out as background noise.*

Explain that this session examines the human tendency to tune out Jesus's warnings about His return. Say: *Jesus challenged His followers to stay alert, but it can be hard to live in a constant expectation of His second coming.* Encourage adults to evaluate their hearts and attitudes as they study these verses and to identify practical ways they can live with vigilance and preparation.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, reflect on the information about AMBER Alerts. Ask: *What if an alert became personal because you had a relationship with the individual in harm's way? How much attention would we want to give the alert—and how much attention would we want others to give it?*

Challenge adults to make a list of ways believers can remain faithful and not grow weary as they wait for Jesus to return. Remind them that someone was obedient and faithful to share the gospel with them and Jesus wants us to take advantage of opportunities He gives us to share with others. Allow adults a few minutes to pray silently for family, friends, neighbors, and others who need to hear the gospel. Close the session in prayer, asking God to help each adult be sensitive to His leading and bold in sharing His good news with others.