Name: _____

REGULAR LESSON

Is Jesus Really Coming Back?

TODAY'S BIG IDEA	Christians confess that Jesus will return bodily and visibly to judge and to make all things new. That hope changes how we live now.
BIBLE READING	Mark 13:24–37 and 1 Corinthians 1:3–9
MEMORY VERSE	"God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord." (1 Corinthians 1:9)

1 Honest poll

Honestly, from 1 to 10, how much do you think about Jesus coming back? Why?

2 Read and discuss

Mark 13:24–27 But in those days, after that oppression, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. Then he will send out his angels, and will gather together his chosen ones from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the sky.

1. **Jesus quotes the prophets' picture language (Isaiah 13:10; Daniel 7:13). Why use cosmic images instead of plain description?**

2. **Is this a private, secret return?**

> Mark 13:30–33 Most certainly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Watch, keep alert, and pray; for you don't know when the time is.

1. **Skeptics say verse 30 proves Jesus was wrong. How have Christians answered?**

2. **Why does verse 32 matter for how we talk about the end?**

> 1 Corinthians 1:7–9 so that you come behind in no gift; waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will also confirm you until the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

1. **According to Paul, who keeps a Christian ready until the end?**

2. **So what is our part?**

3 The creed in one line

"From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead." — The Apostles' Creed · Read the creeds

"That in all my sorrows and persecutions, with uplifted head I look for the very same person, who before offered himself for my sake, to the tribunal of God, and has removed all curse from me, to come as judge from heaven."

Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 52 (1563) · Read it in the Reading Room

1. **Why does the catechism say "with uplifted head" instead of "with fear and trembling"?**

4 What would change?

If I knew Jesus would come back in my lifetime, this week I would:

Is anything on that list something I should do anyway?

5 Pray

“Stir up thy power, O Lord, and come.” Pray silently for one person who doesn’t yet know Jesus.

Scripture: World English Bible (public domain). Free to print and copy.