LESSON 23

THE HOME OWNER RETURNS



Aim: **To show the children that Christians should faithfully serve the Lord Jesus while they wait for his return.**

Scripture Reading: **Luke 12:35–48**

Memory Verse: **John 1:10–14**
Review the passage.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

What happens in the classroom at school when the teacher is called away? At first everyone may work quietly, but if the teacher continues to be absent a few people will start talking, which makes it hard for the rest to concentrate. Finally, the whole class usually stops working and talks or plays when the teacher arrives.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. During Jesus' time on earth he told his disciples about his second coming. How were his disciples to live while they waited for him to return? Jesus told several stories about this to help those who wanted to follow him.
2. For example, he told a story about a man who went to a wedding. Celebrations like that can go on until very late. However, when this man returned home his servants opened the door immediately. The servants were ready and waiting for their master, even if it was after midnight. They were delighted that their master was so pleased with them. The master was so delighted that the servants were looking after his property so well, that he served them food (Lk 12:35–38)!
3. Jesus then described how a wise man guards his house against thieves. He makes sure that he is ready at all times, because robbers certainly won't warn you when they are coming. This story warns us that we also do not know when Jesus will come again, therefore we must be ready at all times (12:39–40).
4. In other stories Jesus wanted to show his friends what they should be doing while they waited in readiness for him. He described the behaviour of a faithful manager. **Show Picture 23.** The owner found that his household was well organised in his absence, and so the manager was rewarded for his faithful and excellent service (12:42–44).
5. But Jesus also described what would happen if those who were left in charge got drunk, wasted the owner's property and abused those for whom they were supposed to be responsible. Their punishment would be severe (12:45–46).

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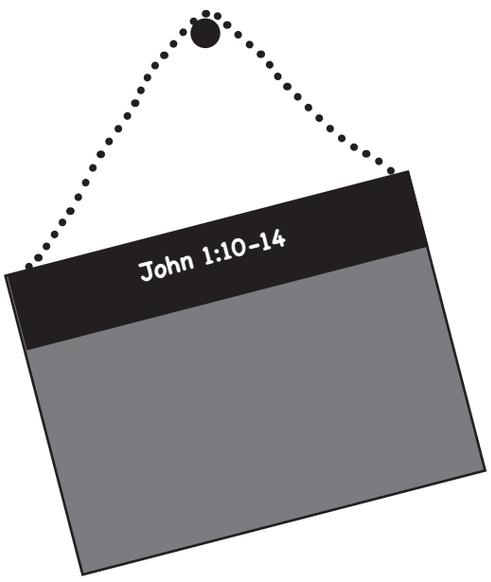


Our Response to the Story

When Jesus talked about looking after a household, he was using it as a picture of our lives. A house has different rooms. For example, a sitting room, bedrooms, kitchen, storeroom – each one of these is like a different part of our lives. For example, the kitchen is where a lot of work is done. How well do we work? We can bring honour to Jesus by the way we do our everyday tasks. Our minds are like storerooms. What or whom do we think of? **See if you can think of other practical examples.**

The Lord created us all to honour him, but he created us different from one another. He gave us different responsibilities and abilities. We want to look forward to his return and be ready to show him what we have done with what he gave us.

Instil the Memory Verse



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