

A LIVING FAITH Lesson on ADVENT SUNDAY

Theme: Being Prepared for Christ's return - Advent

Object: Supplies – backpack, flashlight, compass, map, sunscreen, water bottle, thick socks, granola bar

Scripture: **Matthew 24:42 (NRSV or NKJV)**

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.



Paree Looy!

Do we have any Girl or Boy Scouts here today? The scouts have a great motto. Does anyone know what their motto is? That's right - "Be Prepared!" This means that a good scout must always be prepared and ready for whatever they may encounter. Part of scouting is doing outdoor activities like hiking. 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. But a person must be prepared before going on a hike.

Each time I go on a hike it's a little bit different. Sometimes it's hot and sometimes it's cold. Sometimes it's raining, and sometimes it's dry as a desert. Sometimes the path is flat, and sometimes it's up and down.. 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. I even brought my backpack to show you. These are things I always bring with me, no matter what type of hike I'm going on.

I have a flashlight, for when it gets dark., a map and compass, so I don't get lost, 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. We should be prepared for a test, or for a soccer game, or even a party.

But there is one thing to be prepared for that is more important than anything else: Meeting Jesus. Just like when I go hiking, there are things that we need no matter what to be prepared for Jesus:

1. **Flashlight:** We might not need an actual flashlight, but we do need a light to follow. Thankfully, the Bible says that Jesus is the light of the world. So if we get stuck in a bad place, lost in the dark of sin, all we have to do is look for the light of Jesus.
2. **Compass/Map:** Prayer is just like our compass and map. When we pray, we are staying pointed in the right direction, directed right to Jesus.
3. **Water/Food:** Reading the Bible is nourishment to our souls, just like water and food is nourishment to our bodies. It helps to keep us strong as followers of Jesus, so when times get tough, we are ready.
4. **Sunscreen/Socks:** The Holy Spirit is our sunscreen and socks, keeping us protected. When we have the Holy Spirit living in us, we don't have to worry, because we are protected.

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 obey our parents, help others, read our Bibles, and ask for forgiveness when we may not have followed His commandments.