

**Date:** 11-18-18

**Theme:** Watch and Pray

**Scripture:** Mark 13: 1-8

**Materials and Preparation:**

- a. View the Virtual Reconstruction of the Second Temple: [www.realmofhistory.com](http://www.realmofhistory.com) By “Search” type in “second temple.” Click on “Nifty Animations Reconstruct the Second Temple” and then scroll down to “Virtual Reconstruction of the Second Temple Mount.” *This virtual reconstruction is almost 8 minutes long--too long to show in class, so decide on a 2 or 3 minute segment for use in class. Suggestion: show the first minute and the last two minutes. (You can “fast forward” just by clicking near the bottom of the visual image and dragging the red dot to the right.)*
- b. You’ll need a laptop computer. Give yourself plenty of time, prior to class, to set up WiFi at church and to make sure the technology is working.
- c. You’ll need a balloon for each student. Ideally, these balloons will be helium-filled but you could use air-filled balloons. (Note: Dollar Tree offers helium-filled mylar balloons for \$1 apiece; the plain gold and silver balloons—the ones without any markings--are perfect to write on and quite attractive. Mylar balloons stay inflated for several days, so you could purchase the balloons on Saturday afternoon or evening and keep them in readiness for class on Sunday morning.)
- d. You’ll need a Sharpie for each student (for writing on the balloons).
- e. Print a copy of the Bible verses regarding what to do when bad things happen (see page 3 below). Post it where the students can readily see it.
- f. The New Revised Standard Version of today’s Bible text is copied for your convenience on page 4 below; it may be of interest to you as background information.

**Vocabulary Words:** temple, disciple, earthquakes, famines

**Objective:** To help students understand that they need to trust God even when bad things happen.

**Opening:** Have the students recite the Lord’s Prayer (they may need to repeat after you, line by line)

**Activity:** Visual Experience

What is a war? What is an earthquake? What is a famine? [Let the students answer these questions. Amplify their answers as needed.]

These are all scary things that happen in the world. Today’s Bible text is about what we should do when these bad things happen. To understand this Bible story, we need to know what the word “temple” means? What is a temple?

In today’s Bible text, Jesus is talking about the temple in Jerusalem. It was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. (roughly 40 years after Jesus died), but modern scholars think they know what it looked like:

**Visual Experience.** Using a laptop computer and the information provided under “Materials and Preparation,” show selections from the “Virtual Reconstruction of the Second Temple Mount.”

[Note: The first temple was the one built by Solomon and destroyed by the Babylonians; the second temple was built in stages, completed by Herod the Great, and destroyed by the Romans.]

**Reading:**

Read **Mark 13: 1-8** (*Whirl Story Bible* or *Spark Story Bible*).

Questions to discuss:

1. Do bad things such as wars, earthquakes, and famines still happen in the world?
2. Can we know in advance exactly when and where such things will happen?
3. Some people lose faith in God when bad things happen. What should we do, according to Jesus? [Watch, wait, and hope. Or as Mark 13:33 says, “Take heed, watch and pray, for you do not know when the time will come.”]
4. Because bad things happen, some people have a negative attitude toward life. They may constantly grumble and complain and expect the worst. Do you think this is a good way to live?
5. We all become sad when bad things happen—especially if they happen to someone we know and love. What should we do when we are sad?
6. What should we do when others are sad?

**Activity:** Balloon Messages

Materials needed: a balloon (preferably helium-filled but air-filled will work) and a Sharpie for each student.

1. Have the students write, “What if bad things happen?” on their balloons.
2. Next, have them write one of the following Bible verses on the balloon. (Print a copy of these verses using page 3 below and post it where the student can readily see it.)

**Mark 13: 33.** Take heed, watch, and pray

**Isaiah 41:10.** Do not fear, for I am with you

**Proverbs 3:5.** Trust in the LORD with all your heart

**Psalms 34: 17.** When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and rescues them

**1 Peter 5: 7.** Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you

**Closing:** Ask each student to read the message he/she has written on his/her balloon.

**Offering:** Have three students use their balloons to report to the congregation: “We talked about what to do when bad things happen. We’ve written some Bible verses about this on our balloons, for example, . . .”.

## What If Bad Things Happen?

**Mark 13: 33.** Take heed, watch, and pray

**Isaiah 41: 10.** Do not fear, for I am with you

**Proverbs 3: 5.** Trust in the LORD with all your heart

**Psalms 34: 17.** When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and rescues them

**1 Peter 5: 7.** Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you

**Teachers:** The New Revised Standard Version of today's Bible lesson is copied here for your convenience, as helpful background information. (The NRSV stays much closer to the original Greek text than does the *Whirl Story Bible* or the *Spark Story Bible*.) I do not recommend having the students read from the NRSV but it may be of interest to you.

**Mark 13: 1-8** (NRSV) As he [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!"<sup>2</sup> Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."<sup>3</sup> When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately,<sup>4</sup> "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?"<sup>5</sup> Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray.<sup>6</sup> Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray.<sup>7</sup> When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come.<sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.