

LUKE 21: 5 - 19

⁵ Some people were talking about the beautiful stones used to build the temple and about the gifts that had been placed in it. Jesus said, ⁶"Do you see these stones? The time is coming when not one of them will be left in place. They will all be knocked down."



⁷ Some people asked, "Teacher, when will all this happen? How can we know when these things are about to take place?"

⁸ Jesus replied:

Don't be fooled by those who will come and claim to be me. They will say, "I am Christ!" and "Now is the time!" But don't follow them. ⁹When you hear about wars and riots, don't be afraid. These things will have to happen first, but that isn't the end.

¹⁰ Nations will go to war against one another, and Kingdoms will attack each other. ¹¹There will be great earthquakes, and in many places people will starve to death and suffer terrible diseases. All sorts of frightening things will be seen in the sky.

¹² Before all this happens, you will be arrested and punished. You will be tried in your meeting places and put in jail. Because of me you will be placed on trial before kings and governors. ¹³But this will be your chance to tell about your faith.

¹⁴ Don't worry about what you will say to defend yourselves. ¹⁵I will give you the wisdom to know what to say. None of your enemies will be able to oppose you or to say that you are wrong. ¹⁶You will be betrayed by your own parents, brothers, family, and friends. Some of you will even be killed. ¹⁷Because of me, you will be hated by everyone. ¹⁸But don't worry! ¹⁹You will be saved by being faithful to me.

Create a large print out (A1 Poster size) of the text and stick to a wall in your gathering space. You will also need a stack of newspapers and magazines. Pre-cut several pictures from the magazines of large buildings or cities, natural disasters, and celebrities. You will also need glue-sticks.

We are going to read the Bible together in a minute. We are reading from Luke's gospel and we get the picture that there is a lot of "hoo-ha" going on around Luke. *(Hold up relevant magazines as you work through this list.)*

People are talking about impressive buildings (*travel brochure*), impressive celebrity people, (*Who Weekly*) freaky natural disasters (*National Geographic*), and big headlines in the news, Wars and Scandals (*Time*). They are talking about what's going on in their family – their own mini soap opera (*That's Life/New Idea*). It seems like there's nothing new.

In fact, this part of the Bible seems a bit like the Bigpond homepage.

(If you have the technology display, a screen capture of a news feed webpage – best not to do this live as content/images can sometimes be inappropriate for multi-age gatherings.)

Lots of people make a big deal 'like it's the end of the world' out of these things.

(Pass around pre-cut pictures so that everyone has at least one).

In Luke's gospel, there is another perspective on what is the end of the world. In Luke's gospel Jesus has the last word. Let's see if we can see what it is as we read this passage together.

As we read, if you have a picture that relates to the things people get excited about, stick it up around that place on our text Poster.

(It is a good idea for another person to read the text, but quite slowly and contemplatively, to enable the main presenter the space to interact with the pictures and the content of the reading and make extra comments that link what is 'acclaimed' in the magazines and the same sense in the text. With each item, gently reaffirm 'many people think this is the big thing, but Jesus is going to have the last word').

Did you hear that? After all these dramas, Jesus says "Don't worry, you will be saved through being faithful to me."

Children and others may like to keep building up this montage around the text during the rest of the service. It may provide a helpful prayer focus later.