

UNLEASHED!

DAY 3— Meet Jesus When He Surprises Us

Acts 1:9-11

Time Alone with God

Prayer

Explore the Word

1. Read John 14:1–3. What is Jesus personally preparing before He returns?
2. Read Acts 1:9–11. How will Jesus return?

Insights from Ellen White:

When the time came for Christ to ascend to His Father, He led the disciples out as far as Bethany. Here He paused, and they gathered about Him. With hands outstretched in blessing, as if in assurance of His protecting care, He slowly ascended from among them. "It came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven." Luke 24:51. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 32)

While the disciples were gazing upward to catch the last glimpse of their ascending Lord, He was received into the rejoicing ranks of heavenly angels. As these angels escorted Him to the courts above, they sang in triumph, "Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord, to Him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens. . . . Ascribe ye strength unto God: His excellency is over Israel, and His strength is in the heavens." Psalm 68:32–34, margin. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 32, 33)

Prayer Focus

Ask God to prepare your heart to meet Jesus soon.

Family/Friend Circle

Connect Activity

1. Invite everyone to think about how many minutes you like to arrive before or after a scheduled appointment.
2. Ask everyone who likes to arrive early to raise their fingers indicating how many minutes they like to arrive early.
3. Ask everyone who is comfortable arriving later to raise their fingers indicating how many minutes they are willing to arrive late.

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Explore the Word

1. Read Matthew 24:42–44. How will Jesus' second coming be like a thief?
2. How may we best prepare for Jesus to return?

Insights from Ellen White:

The promise of Christ's second coming was ever to be kept fresh in the minds of His disciples. The same Jesus whom they had seen ascending into heaven, would come again, to take to Himself those who here below give themselves to His service. The same voice that had said to them, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end," would bid them welcome to His presence in the heavenly kingdom. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 33)

Prayer Focus

Pray together that the Holy Spirit will prepare each person in your circle to meet Jesus when He returns.