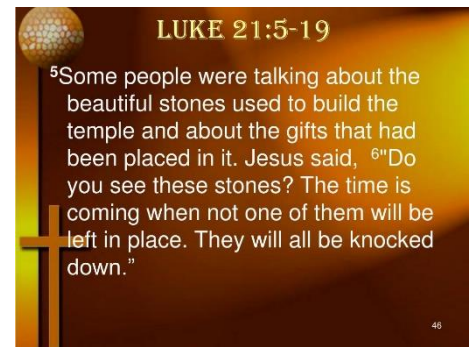




SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 16TH
2nd before Advent



Readings

2 Thessalonians 3 verses 6 – 13

Luke 21 verses 5 – 19

Jesus, as we go out into our world, if we find things tough, be with us and help us with the words and wisdom we need. **Amen.**

AND

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

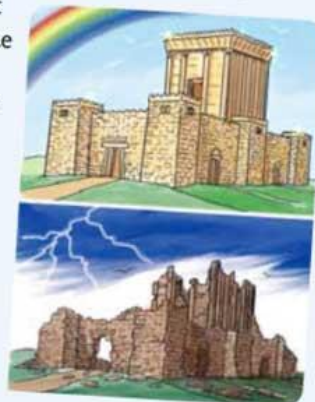


The Temple was huge; the Temple was grand; the Temple was covered in sparkling gemstones and decorated with ornaments. Jesus listened. He listened and heard people talking about the Temple's beauty. ✿ 'These things that you see,' he said, 'will all be thrown down one day. Not one stone will be left on top of another.' The disciples couldn't imagine the huge, grand, sparkling Temple being thrown down. 'When will this happen?' they asked. They were sure that Jesus must be talking about the end of the world. 'What signs should we look out for?'

Jesus didn't answer directly. 'Beware that you are not led astray,' he said. 'Many will come in my name, saying, "I am he, the time is near." Don't follow them.' ✿ Jesus continued, 'Before the end, there will be wars. Don't be scared. These things must happen, but the end won't follow immediately. Countries will fight one another; there will be earthquakes, starvation and terrible diseases; you will see incredible signs from heaven.'

The disciples tried to imagine all the things Jesus was talking about. But he hadn't finished. 'Before all these things happen, you will be arrested and insulted because you believe in me. You will be brought in front of kings to explain yourselves. This will give you the chance to tell people about me. Don't worry about what to say because I will give you words and wisdom, so that nobody will be able to argue against you. You will be hated because of me; even your families and friends will turn against you, but not a hair of your heads will be harmed. You will be rewarded in heaven if you hang on and endure.' ✿

Luke 21:5-19



Stop and share

- The Temple Jesus is talking about was the second Temple to be built after the last one was destroyed, it was even more beautiful than the one before.
- How do we know when people are telling us the truth?
- To endure means to suffer, to put up with problems.

A careful watch

Play and explore that God cares for us

Play an observation game that needs the children to look carefully, such as Kim's game, where children have to remember objects on a tray that are removed.

Make binoculars

Create a symbol of keeping watch

Use cardboard tubes to make a pair of binoculars, which the children can use to keep watch.

Explore how we can help those going through difficult times

You will need: A6 or postcard-sized pieces of card, one per child, pens, art materials, glue, scissors.

- Ask everyone to write some simple phrases on the back of their card, or do this for them, e.g., 'Jesus loves you', 'Peace to you' or 'Trust in God'.
- Invite the children to decorate the other side of their card.
- Put the cards out somewhere in your church for people to take as an encouragement. Or you could give them to a local care home.

Talk together

What would you do if someone told you they were going through a tough time?

What does Jesus say about how he would help?


How can we use what we've learnt today to help us when going through hard times?

In today's world, young people are living through life-changing experiences. They will have faced some of what is described in the passage. Discuss with the young people how they can learn about others' experience; how could they help change the narrative?

Prayer knots

Life is full of knots, but Jesus is always with us

You will need: a very long piece of string.

- Invite the young people silently or aloud to say a prayer, perhaps for a difficult situation.
-  Play 'Oh My soul', Casting Crowns, on *The Very Next Thing*. ([Video](#); [Chords](#))
- As they pray, invite them to tie a loop knot along one section of the long string. To finish, hold the string in cupped hands, and ask everyone to say together 'Hear our prayers'

Go with God 24/7

Encourage the children to put their faith into action

Hand out an encouragement card to someone going through a difficult time.

Think of times when you are or were going through tough or difficult times. Make a list and think about what helps you to cope. Do you pray? Do you play music? Jesus is always there to help – just put your trust in Him.

Our God is a great big God – [Sing together or read the words](#)

Meet us here, new words to *Kumbaya*.

In our time of need, meet us here,
Through our failing Lord, meet us here.
In our sadness Lord, meet us here,
You always meet us here.

You will listen Lord, in our need,
You will guide us Lord, in our need.
You will love us Lord, in our need,
You always meet us here.

Signs of the End of the Age

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid; for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; He also has become my salvation. Isaiah 12:2

Choose the word that best matches the definition.



1. A building used for religious ceremonies or worship
A. gift B. prison C. life D. temple
2. Something that is given without compensation
A. worry B. stone C. temple D. gift
3. A piece of rock used in construction of the temple
A. wisdom B. stone C. life D. prison
4. A country; a large group of people living in one area with their own government
A. nation B. prison C. gift D. fear
5. A building where people are kept as a punishment
A. nation B. life C. prison D. fear
6. A feeling of worry caused by something dangerous
A. worry B. fear C. nation D. prison
7. To think about problems or unpleasant things that might happen
A. wisdom B. prison C. worry D. gift
8. The period between birth and death
A. temple B. wisdom C. worry D. life
9. To make good decisions based on knowledge and experience
A. wisdom B. gift C. worry D. prison
10. Fighting between two or more countries
A. war B. prison C. fear D. temple

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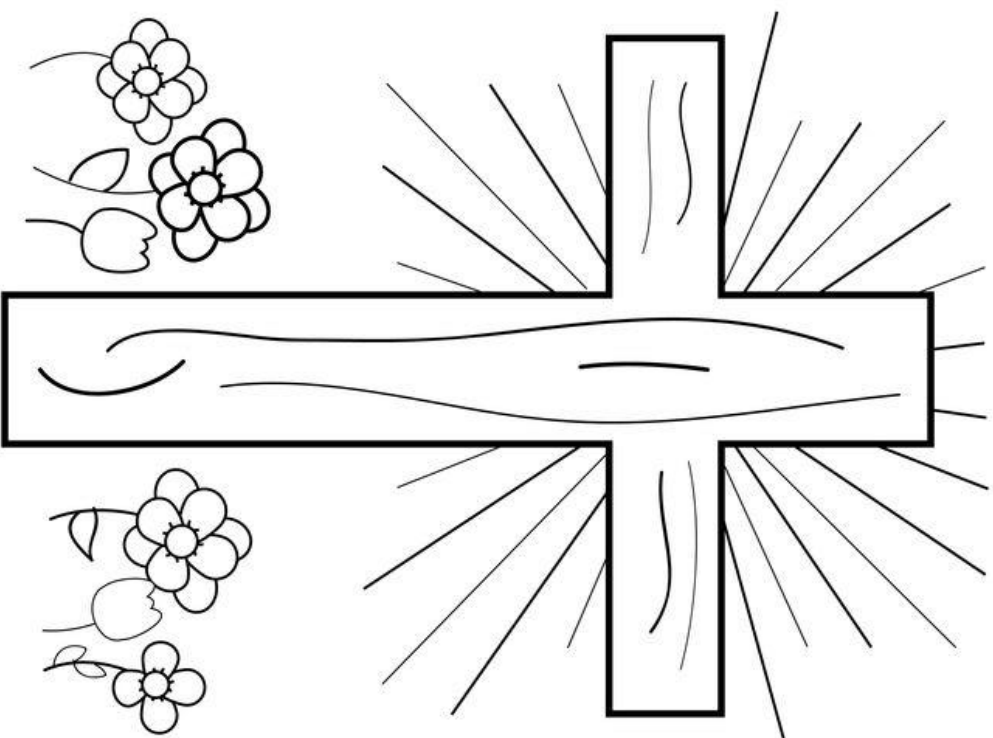
The puzzle is based on Luke 21:5-28 (NIV).



O B R O T H E R S W X X W G R
F P A R E N T S W I A W A R S
P R I S O N S T O I G T L C R
Y A I K E E U I R P H N C E B
W I J G N A N M R F K E S H E
H Q H O H O R E Y M S T X D A
E Y T H I T A T O X F L S I U
A S Z T E J E D H I V E D S T
R W A Y K A G N G Q V P D C I
T N H X L N V P E I U W K I F
E E G W I P B E T D N A R P U
P F M K F X D A N E A R K L L
U G I P E R L F A M I N E E X
T L T V L E F R I E N D S S S
Z Z I O R E V O L U T I O N S

HEAR	BEAUTIFUL	WARS	FAMINE	PARENTS
REVOLUTIONS	NATION	HEAVEN	FRIGHTENED	TEMPLE
PRISON	DISCIPLES	TIME	SIGNS	FRIENDS
EARTHQUAKES	WATCH	RELATIVES	WORRY	BROTHERS
NEAR	STONES	KINGDOM	LIFE	GIFTS

We can trust God!



SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding Sunday is a campaign by Thirtyone:eight. You will need to register to have access to the resources for Safeguarding Sunday. Registration is free and there are plenty of resources. Have a look online to find resources suitable for your church/group.

<https://safeguardingsunday.org>

Colour the pictures below and read what it says. This is just one example of keeping safe.

The Green Cross Code

