



CHILDREN BROCHURE

MORAVIAN CHURCH – BARBADOS CONFERENCE Provincial Theme: Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T.

S. – Seek & Submit
H. – Hear & Heed
I. – Imagine & Insight
F. – Focus & Function
T. – Totally Transformed

S.H.I.F.T.

Age: 13 yrs. & Over

September 12

Sing with me:

Jesus is coming again

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFdnHORPFxw>

Memory Verse: Mark 13: 35 (NIV)

³⁵ “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.

Scripture: Mark 13: 32 – 37

Read with me:

The Day and Hour Unknown

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he

comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

Let us talk about it.

Let us look back a bit as to how Jesus taught. We said before that Jesus taught a lot using parables. A parable has been defined as an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Jesus very well knew the people will better understand what He was saying if they could relate to what He was saying. Jesus used examples which the people will understand. Jesus wanted to tell the people that He was going away and will come back, but He could not tell them as to when He was coming back. The only person, He said, who will know this ‘come back time’ was God. Not even the angels knew this. So, what does Jesus want? Jesus wants us to be prepared. Like the Scouts, “Be prepared”.

Many of you are just entering Secondary School. You spent the last four years in Primary School preparing for this time. After getting your results indicating which Secondary School you will attend, there was another preparation stage – getting new school uniforms, a new book bag and books and other stationary. Your parents have gone to meetings at the school. You have spent this last week preparing. Now, in Barbados, the COVID pandemic has sort of made this preparation a little difficult for some of us. We do not know when school will physically reopen, but we expect that this happen sometime. We do not know when the pandemic will stop growing, but we are all encouraged to be vaccinated to stop the spread of the virus. You are all over the age of 12, and are therefore now eligible to be given the vaccine. Are you prepared for the fight against the virus?

Jesus was very clear in His teaching which says we should keep watch, we should prepare ourselves. A popular calypsonian, some years ago, sang these words, “*Children go to school and learn well, otherwise later on in life you will catch real hell!*” He acknowledged that preparation for life included learning well in school. What goals have you set for a future? Are you prepared?

Jesus has promised He will come again. We do not know when, but He has asked us to be prepared. Your preparation could be done through:

- **Praying** - ask God what He wants you to do to prepare. He will lead and guide you to a place of safety and peace. He will give you the protection and strength you need to withstand darkness. He will bring you into His glorious light but you must ask for this through pray.
- **Listening** - listen to God’s voice so you can know and do God’s will. You must learn to recognize God’s voice. If you fully rely on God, He will lead you to the places you need to be and the safety which is available for His children.

- **Watching** - The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth, "Awake to righteousness, and do not sin" (1 Corinthians 15:34). Being awake is equated with righteousness and not sinning. Paul was implying that even true Christians can be spiritually asleep to varying degrees. "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13). We are promised that those who watch will know the season.
- **Storing up** - When Jesus spoke of His own return, He used the story of the 10 virgins. (Matthew 25:1 – 13) Five of the virgins had extra oil and five did not. When the groom's coming was delayed, the five who did not have enough oil had to make a trip to the market to get more, and while they were gone, the groom came and they missed Him.

The kind of oil you need to store are those things which feed the light within you - Bible study, prayer, knowledge of Jesus, church attendance and wholesome music and videos. Don't forget, the type of friends you keep are important. Choose your friends carefully, friends who will support and encourage your walk with Christ. All of these things add light to your life and will help you prepare for when Jesus returns.

- **Improving yourself** - God does not expect you to be perfect, and perfection isn't required in order to see Him at His return. What is expected is that each day you are a little better than the day before.

Jesus may come "*as a thief in the night*" to those who are in the dark, but as Saint Paul said, "*We are not of the night, nor of the darkness.*" (1 Thessalonians 5:5). And in John 8:12, Jesus said, "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*" As children of light, we will watch and be ready for the glorious return of our Lord.

Let us pray:

Dear God, sometimes it seems as if the wait is long, and I do get impatient. Forgive me dear God, and grant me the patience to wait on Your blessings in my life. Help me not to question Your promises. By the light of Your Holy Spirit, fill me with your presence, and lift me up so I will be strengthened by Your goodness towards me, in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Activity

Ready for His Return

"Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come." Mark 13:33 (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition. Answers can be found in Mark 13:32-37 (NIV)



What time is it?

- ___ 1. The person who has something such as property
A. owner B. servant C. angel D. father
- ___ 2. To be in a period of rest such as when we go to bed at night
A. alert B. sleeping C. awake D. watch
- ___ 3. The loud cry of an adult male chicken
A. bark B. meow C. moo D. crow
- ___ 4. A period of sixty minutes
A. watch B. hour C. day D. week
- ___ 5. An adult male chicken
A. rooster B. hen C. chick D. goose
- ___ 6. To have information about something; to be aware of something
A. know B. think C. hope D. watch
- ___ 7. A period of 24 hours
A. minute B. week C. day D. month
- ___ 8. To keep an eye on; to guard
A. hide B. sleep C. time D. watch
- ___ 9. A particular moment in the day, such as eight o'clock
A. time B. watch C. sleep D. night
- ___ 10. The place where a person or family lives
A. tent B. heaven C. door D. house

Ready for His Return

"Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come."
Mark 13:33 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



What time
is it?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
S	F	N	M	P	I	Y	U	H	D	A	Z	R	J	B	K	V	X	E	Q	L	O	G	T	C	W

- 10-11-26-3 _____
- 10-11-7 _____
- 16-3-22-26 _____
- 19-17-19-3-6-3-23 _____
- 1-21-19-19-5-6-3-23 _____
- 26-11-24-25-9 _____
- 11-21-19-13-24 _____
- 4-6-10-3-6-23-9-24 _____
- 9-22-8-13 _____
- 23-8-11-13-10 _____

HOUR	WATCH	KNOW	DAY	DAWN
MIDNIGHT	EVENING	SLEEPING	GUARD	ALERT