

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Be Ready

from Mark 13:24-37.



Advent 1

God works for good, even in troubled times.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Sun
- Moon
- Stars
- Fig Tree
- Master
- Slave

Mark wrote his gospel primarily for a non-Jewish, Roman audience around 70 C.E. It includes many descriptions of Jewish customs, including the ways they had to wash themselves and how they celebrated holidays. These details helped the Roman people understand Jesus both as a person and as the one the Jews had been waiting for, the Son of God.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 346-347

Spark Bible page 1119

Family Prayer

Dear God, The world can be a scary place sometimes. Stay with us and help us remember that good will always follow the bad. We will trust you to lead us out of darkness. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 Share a time of trouble in your own life. How did you see God working for good during this time?
- 2 When Mark wrote his gospel, Jerusalem was at war with Rome. How do you think his Roman audience would feel reading Mark 13:24-26? What would it remind them of?
- 3 No one knows when Jesus will return. What can we do to "keep awake" and prepare for that monumental event?
- 4 Today's passage contains some magnificent, and sometimes frightening, imagery: the sun will be darkened, and the stars will fall from heaven. What do these images remind you of? How do they show God's power?



Eye Spark

When you go outside, look up at the clouds and remember that Jesus will return through them someday "with great power and glory."



Ear Spark

During a storm, listen to the loud claps of thunder. The sounds may be scary, but remember that God is present, even in the darkness.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Plant a garden of perennial flowers (that re-bloom every year) in your yard or in a window box. Remember the sign of the blooming fig tree, and watch for signs of summer in your garden.

For younger kids

Keep a journal of scary things that happen to you. After you write about what happened, write about how God helped you through it. Remember that God works for good in everything.

For older kids

Read newspaper articles and browse websites to find out about recent natural disasters in the world. Look for ways to offer support, such as donating money or collecting food and supplies to send to the people in need. How can we help God work for good even after terrible events?

