GOSPEL THEMES FOR THIS WEEK

IN PREPARATION FOR NOVEMBER 29, 2026: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Theme: Watch! You never know when He will knock!

Verse for reflection: "Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come!'" —Mark 13:33–37

ADULTS

1. Jesus calls the disciples and us to live with readiness, faithfulness, and a heart attentive to God—not in fear, but in loving expectation. What are some ways you are spiritually awake in your daily life? What are some areas that you may be complacent or distracted from God?
2. Jesus compares His followers to servants entrusted with responsibilities while their master is away. What responsibilities has God entrusted to you within your family, friendships, parish, and community?
3. What would it look like to live every day ready to meet Jesus—not worrying about when He will come, but by loving God and others faithfully right now?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Complacency, distraction, fear of the future.

TEENS

1. Jesus repeats the command to "watch." What do you think it means to be spiritually awake? Can someone look busy and successful on the outside but be asleep in their relationship with God? What might that look like in your life?
2. In the Gospel, the master gives each servant a task before leaving. What responsibilities has God entrusted to you right now? How could the way you treat your family, include others, or handle schoolwork become part of being ready for Jesus?
3. How can we prepare for Jesus with hope and love instead of fear? Choose one specific habit you could practice this Advent that would help you recognize Him in prayer and in the people who need you.

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Getting so caught up in everyday distractions and the pressure to fit in that you put your relationship with God off until "later," forgetting that Jesus calls you to be ready now.

KIDS

1. If someone important is coming to visit you and your family, how do you prepare for their visit? Would you find it more difficult if you did not know when your visitor was coming? What would make it a little easier to be prepared for unexpected company?
2. What do you think Jesus means when He says, "Be watchful! Be alert!"? How can you watch for Jesus today? Why do you think we do not know exactly when Jesus will come again?
3. How do you keep your eyes and heart open to Jesus' return so you will be ready when he comes? In what ways do you recognize Jesus in your day-to-day life?
4. How can you be faithful to Jesus at home? What is one thing you can do this Advent to help you prepare for Jesus? What are some bad habits you would like to clear out that make it difficult to recognize Jesus?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Not paying attention to recognize Jesus in our daily lives.