

**Introduction: *Engage your group by stimulating their taste buds.***

Cook up a batch of fresh popcorn, but don't put any butter or salt on it. Ensure that your class can smell this popcorn. Brag on how good it smells and tastes. Give each class member four or five pieces to eat. Then ask, "What were you expecting the popcorn to taste like? Did reality match your anticipation?" The emphasis of the lesson is on longing for God to fulfill a future promise but never fully experiencing it here during this life. This exercise should give them a small glimpse of that disappointment and the anticipation of its future fulfillment.

**Part 1: *Help your group understand the major theme by relating to current events.***

God laid out the requirements for a righteous king by giving them His law (Jer. 22:1-5). In effect, He was saying, "My word trumps your authority. Your authority comes from Me." Recently, President Obama authorized air strikes against ISIS because of their brutalization of religious minorities in Iraq. Mr. Obama does not have the authority to conduct air strikes arbitrarily at his whim. Rather, he invoked these strikes based on the authority given to him in the U.S. Constitution and the War Powers Act. He duly informed Congress, per these two documents, of his reasons for performing strikes. Ask, "If the most powerful man on the planet has to submit to authority specifically delineated in the Constitution, no one should think that they are above the law. Can you think of recent events where someone has usurped authority and it has cost them?"

**Part 2: *Help your group members connect with the major theme through use of the New Testament.***

Divide your class into two groups. Give each group a 3-by-5-inch card with a Bible passage on it. The passages are: James 4:11-12 and Romans 8:31-39. Give them five minutes to examine the passage. The first group should talk about how God will judge wicked leaders and the second group should relate on how God will save His own. Have each group report their findings to the class.

**Part 3: *Check for understanding using a hymn.***

Through the years, great men and women of God have helped us get a glimpse of the future through the writing of hymns. Have your group either read or sing the lyrics to the hymn, *What a Day That Will Be*.

There is coming a day,  
When no heart aches shall come,  
No more clouds in the sky,  
No more tears to dim the eye,  
All is peace forever more,  
On that happy golden shore,  
What a day, glorious day that will be.

What a day that will be,  
When my Jesus I shall see,  
And I look upon His face,  
The One who saved me by His grace;  
When He takes me by the hand,  
And leads me through the Promised Land,  
What a day, glorious day that will be.

There'll be no sorrow there,  
No more burdens to bear,  
No more sickness, no pain,  
No more parting over there;  
And forever I will be,  
With the One who died for me,  
What a day, glorious day that will be.

What a day that will be,  
When my Jesus I shall see,  
And I look upon His face,  
The One who saved me by His grace;  
When He takes me by the hand,  
And leads me through the Promised Land,  
What a day, glorious day that will be.

As they listen or sing, ask them to listen to the words and think about the meaning. Jesus is coming again to receive us to Himself! No longer will we be in exile to this world. We will be free from the very presence of sin and spend eternity basking in His glory. This should cause us to praise Him!

**Conclusion:** *Challenge your students to live the lesson.*

Give your students each a small bag of delicious buttered and salted popcorn. Tell them because of their patience in waiting for the end of the class, you have given them what they longed for. Ask the group to relate this to how we should be anticipating the coming of our future king, Jesus. Have them read 1 John 3:1-3 to see not only what the future has in store but how we should live our lives in light of this.

### **Teaching Tip of the Week**

The use of objects in a lesson can be very helpful in engaging students' interest in the subject and engaging their senses. The more senses that are engaged, the more likely they are to remember the lesson. Today, we used popcorn. Think of other objects you can use in your future lessons. You are only limited by your imagination!